
Feminist Bookstore News

GET READY FOR

Black History Month AND Women's History Month

2nd ANNUAL

January/February 1999
Volume 21 Number 5



Debra Ostrokolowicz

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As we go to press...

It is truly amazing how much happens in the two short months between issues. I skipped out to Hawaii for some R&R just as we went to press in October and had a wonderful time. Snorkeling and sea turtles and dolphins and a bit of kayaking, working on a dyke-owned banana farm, and three days of playing with Sisterhood Bookstore's ex-manager — and *FBN's* ex-science fiction columnist, Julie Mitchell (who's living there for six months) — were just a *few* of the highlights. My only regret was missing the tribute to Lesbian Herstory Archives co-founder Joan Nestle on the occasion of the publication of her essay collection, *A Fragile Union*. From all I've heard, it was an extraordinary event, reflecting back to Joan, perhaps, how her love and ability to cherish our collective past has informed our present — and the shape of our future.

And since I've been back on the "mainland," we've had earthquakes (4.2 on the Richter, but who's counting?), an (unrelated) day-long, city-wide power outage (not such a big deal in hindsight, but at the beginning it was tempting to give in to all kinds of *Into the Forest*-type fantasies), the proposed sale of Ingram to independent bookstores' arch rival, Barnes & Noble, and the mushrooming of B&N (and Amazon.com) banners on gay and feminist Web sites, the impeachment, and the bombing of Iraq. Whew! I gotta say that I'm impressed that we got an issue out at all — and such a wonderful issue at that!

So welcome to our second annual Get-Ready-for-Black-History-and-Women's-History-Months issue. Special thanks to *FBN's* new Assistant Editor Teri Mae Rutledge who, in addition to jumping in and shepherding all of *FBN's* many parts to press, went out and

found — and then wrote — the lead story for the issue, the profile of Shades of Sienna, an African American children's bookstore. Turn to page 23 for inspiration, promotional ideas, and insightful book suggestions. Teri Mae also dreamed up and recruited the profile of Black lesbian-visioned RedBone Press. There's lots for kids in this issue (see pages 26, 29, and 69), an update of the African American Lesbian Books list, and, in News, reports on the Feminist Press' Women Writing Africa series and CUNY's publishing certificate program. We tried to trim down our annual Booksellers' Recommendations for BH/WH Months, but there is just too much enthusiasm and energy for these books to do justice in a half a dozen pages, so we just let them rip! The cheering begins on page 41.

So welcome to our second annual Get-Ready-for- Black-History-and- Women's-History- Months issue.

There's such a difference between this cheering enthusiasm for books and the "My (ah, um...) *database* is bigger than your (ah, um...) *database*" competition and advertising going on between b&n.com and Amazon.com on TV, online, and in major newspapers. Not to be gross, but it has all the maturity and sophistication of prepubescent boys getting off on

size competitions before they learn that size and satisfaction have nothing to do with each other. The "brilliant" minds running both of those establishments clearly haven't figured that out either, and they're advertising their egomania all over the place. And these are the people we're supposed to trust with doing a mature and ethical job of running the nation's largest book wholesaler? I don't think so! Certainly not unless they grow up and get a grip on reality!

And, for revenge, we're pleased to announce the return of that bad-attitude character, Hothead

Paisan. ("That's FEH MUH NIST — Can you say it?") Issue #21 — as Hothead says, "So what if it's three years late!" — is rolling off the presses as we go to press, so drop everything and go find it. We need a little attitude to get us through these times. (See page 85 for details.)

Enormous thanks to *Sojourner* crew for the wonderful (and long!) article about feminist bookstores in their December issue. They understand the importance of feminist bookstores and the economic forces that are conspiring to do us in and believe in the possibility of organizing large numbers of people to stand against those forces to preserve our community and its resources.

I wish that more of our "leadership" organizations had as clear an understanding! In this issue *FBN* describes and addresses the Barnes & Noble-sponsored assault on feminist and gay bookstores taking place on many of our community's Web sites. (See page 55.)

It's with a great deal of sadness — and joy — that I announce that *FBN's* Catalog Coordinator, Lisa

McGowan, has resigned her position to fulfill her longtime dream of going back to school. We will miss her clear-eyed vision and vast knowledge of the book industry's workings on a daily basis. Her work at *FBN* has centered on helping independent bookstores fight back against the superchain incursions, and we envy anyone who manages to recruit her for their team in the future. Luckily for us, she's keeping time in her schedule to help *FBN* with various special projects and so she'll be in and out of the office in the months to come. All of us here wish her the very best as she pursues this dream.

Special thanks, too, to Kristin Redmon, who has made the transition to a new office manager *easy* as well as fun (*she* can say FEH MUH NIST!) and to our Production Manager, Kathryn Werhane, who has spent the last two issues struggling through new software, a lemon of a new computer (that never did work), and truly creepy software bugs, finally, producing this issue on the old computer with a creative mix of old and new software.

Yours in spreading the words,
Carol Seajay

FBN DUE DATES

	Spring Announcements March - April	May - June	Summer & Sidelines July - August
Articles	Jan. 4	Mar. 5	May 7
Ad Reservations	Jan. 8	Mar. 12	May 14
Ad Mechanicals	Jan. 15	Mar. 19	May 21
News Column Items	Jan. 15	Mar. 19	May 21
Letters	Jan. 20	Mar. 24	May 26

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

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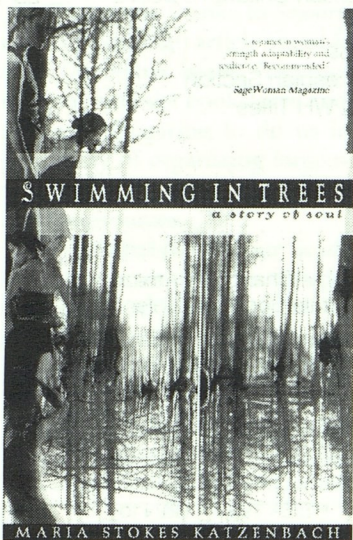
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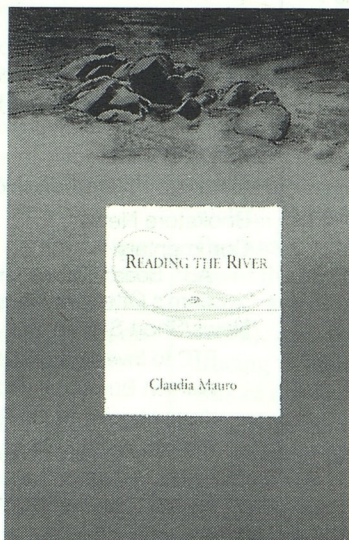


Swimming in Trees

by Maria Stokes Katzenbach

Multi-layered and exhilarating, this spiritual journey begins with a murder and celebrates--in language like a force of nature--the creative life-loving energy in all women. Three realities--the spiritual, concrete, and hallucinatory--create a complex and layered re-membling of self, as woman, writer, sister, and friend. A book to breathe in, discover, re-discover, and share.

DIVINA, \$17.00, 0-9659521-3-4

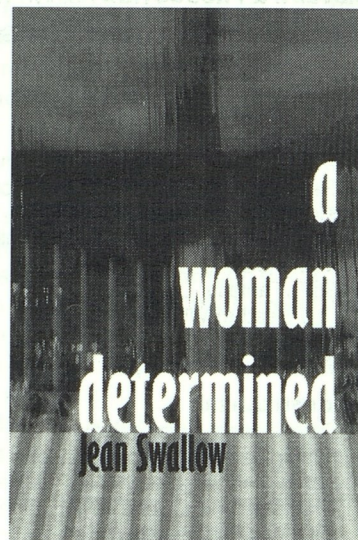


Reading the River

Writings by Claudia Mauro

The eagerly awaited second collection of stories and poems by the Lambda Book Award nominee. At once sexual and deeply spiritual, it contains some of the most sensual and lyrical love poems written by a woman for another woman ever published. Merging the power and relevance of Dorothy Allison and the spiritual sensibility of Kathleen Norris, Mauro is rapidly becoming a favorite in women's poetry across the U.S. and Canada.

Whiteaker, \$13.95, 0-9653800-3-3



A Woman Determined

by Jean Swallow

A character study in the context of a close-knit community of urban lesbians, exploring the far-reaching consequences of an automobile accident on its members and its institutions. In 1986, Swallow received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Gay & Lesbian Press Association. She committed suicide in 1995 at the age of 42.

Spinsters Ink, \$10.95, 1-883523-28-1

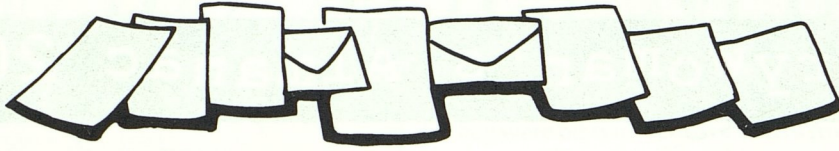
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LETTERS



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Dear FBN,

Catalogues just arrived (minutes ago) and they are wonderful.

Here's payment — I kept waiting for our dollar to recover (which hasn't happened). With the exchange on the dollar, it is almost prohibitive to purchase anything from the U.S.

The Northern Woman's Bookstore has survived the six months since the arrival of Chapters — but most other independents have not survived. The children's bookstore, a new age store, and Sweet Thursday, our only mainstream independent (and a good one) have all closed. What remains is a gay bookstore (which is mostly videos), a café that also sells books, two Christian bookstores, and the Northern Woman's Bookstore. The months of May, June, and July were dreadful. But it's hard to determine how much Chapters was a factor since Thunder Bay also had strikes against two major employers, a generally poor economy, and the most marvelous weather — so people were going to the beach instead of shopping. Since August, my sales are back to normal (which is *not* to say they are great). With a lot of luck I should balance my books for the year.

One neat "Chapters" story: About a month ago an American visitor came into the store looking for several particular titles. She told me that she had gone to Chapters, looked around, and said, "Good grief, this is a Canadian Barnes & Noble — there must be something else." So she left and searched us out.

Also, we had two great events in September. The first was a signing by Carol Shields, who is a delightful person — a genuine, unpretentious, pleasant

human being. She spent quality time conversing with each customer and gained the respect of us all. After being with her for twenty minutes I felt I had known her all my life. Carol's visit was certainly the highlight of our year.

We also had a great evening with Cori Brewster, a singer/songwriter from Edmonton who has been traveling to support independent bookstores. She was wonderful.

Best wishes,

Margaret/Northern Woman's Bookstore

○

West End Press Announces

Destruction Bay

by Lisa Chavez 72 pp. \$8.95

"Chavez' poems are piercing and sharp as a northern winter, and always they are only a word away from devastation."

-- Linda Hogan

No Parole Today

by Laura Tohe 72 pp. \$8.95

A Navajo poet describes attending a government school for Indian children and how it challenged her socially, culturally, and expressively.

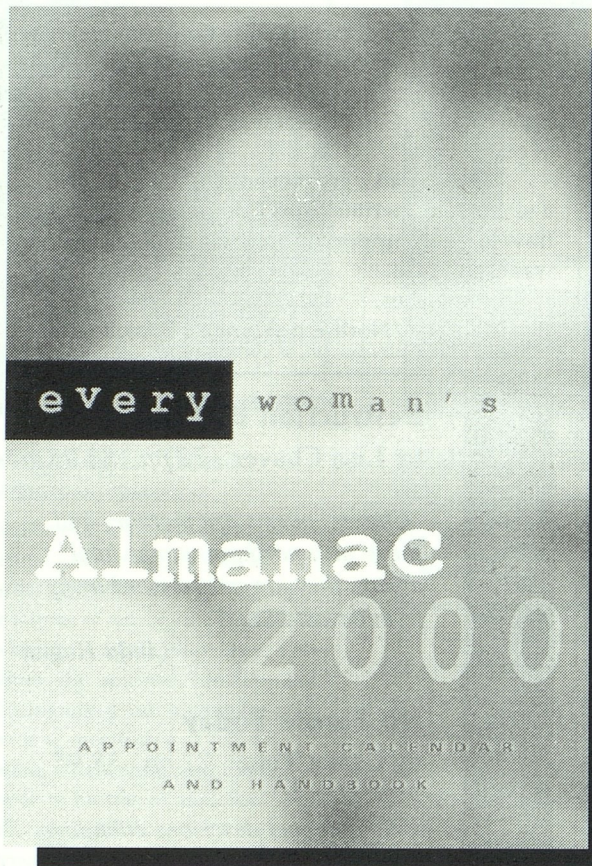
West End Press Box 27334

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NEW FROM WOMEN'S PRESS

everywoman's Almanac 2000



Fashioning the New Millennium

What does feminism have to do with fashion? Why do women choose to wear the clothes, accessories and make-up they wear? In the West, where capitalism defines everything, the fashion industry thrives on women consumers. It is assumed that the fashion industry dictates what we wear from season to season — pink is in this fall and out next fall. But many women move beyond fashion dictates and express their individuality through styles of their own. Responses can vary from dismissals to gawks with comments like "bizarre," "interesting," "exotic," "different," "weird," "crazy." The 2000 *Everywoman's Almanac* reveals the thinking behind the dressing from 12 women determined to assert their personal styles into the next millennium.

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News News News

FTC to Investigate B&N/Ingram and B&N/Bertelsmann Deals

The Federal Trade Commission has announced that it will investigate both Barnes & Noble's proposed purchase of the Ingram Book Group (for \$200 million in cash plus \$400 million in stock) and the chain bookstore's agreement to sell half of its online division, *barnesandnoble.com*, to Bertelsmann (for \$200 million in cash). Feminist and independent booksellers across the country have written to both the FTC and the Department of Justice requesting investigations into the sale of Ingram, the country's primary wholesale distributor, to their largest competitor.

If the findings of the preliminary investigation warrant further investigation and the proposal for the sale is not withdrawn, the FTC will move to a second level of investigation. "That second hearing is the one you really want," ABA's Avin Domnitz told *FBN*. These hearings may be scheduled for early spring.

Indies: 1, Borders: Zip

San Francisco's Union Street neighborhood, local booksellers, the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association (NCIBA), and, eventually, Working Assets, all pitched in to tell San Francisco's Planning Commission that neither Borders nor any other mega-store has a place in this small shop-based neighborhood.

Because of zoning restrictions already in place, Borders applied for a waiver to locate their proposed 20,000-square-foot store in the trendy neighborhood — just down the street from a 2000-square-foot, 17-year-old, successful independent bookstore, Solar Light Books. The Planning Commission had already given tentative approval to the Borders' bid when

they were hit with series of letters from local community members, other neighborhood businesses, and Bay Area booksellers. Working Assets joined the struggle at its height, buying a \$60,000, page-three ad in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* headlined "Borders on Union Street? Just Say No" that described the situation ("Borders Books, the giant bookstore chain, wants to stick a huge store on Union Street.... This will destroy the character of the neighborhood and kill a lively independent bookstore....") and encouraged readers to attend the Planning Commission meeting or to write, phone, or fax the Planning Commission. Faced with so much pressure, community awareness, and local media coverage, the SF Planning Commission reconsidered and refused to grant Borders an exemption from the zoning laws.

Women's Coalition Buys Ms. — Next Issue: April

"Joyful" is the word that best describes the energy at the newly woman-owned *Ms.* Magazine offices, where the ink is barely dry on both the bill of sale from the MacDonald Communications Corporation and on the articles of incorporation for the recently formed buyers' group, Liberty Media for Women.

"*Ms.* was founded in the years before women had control of their money," *Ms.* editor-in-chief Marcia Gillespie told *FBN*, outlining why it was possible to put together a coalition of women investors today, but not in 1972 when *New York* magazine sponsored the first issue and Warner Communications put up \$1 million to launch *Ms.*

When MacDonald Communications decided to "sell or close" *Ms.* last spring, Gillespie and *Ms.* founder Gloria Steinem went into action and, by the end of September, had put together a coalition of 17 women — Liberty Media for Women — to secure the

\$3 million to buy *Ms.* and relaunch it. In addition to Gillespie and Steinem, the group includes Sandy Lerner, a founder of computer network company Cisco Systems; Martha Crowninshield, the managing director of the venture capital firm Boston Ventures; Alix L.L. Ritchie, the publisher of the *Provincetown Banner*; California activist Marta Drury; Abby Disney, a philanthropist and grand-niece of Walt Disney; and a 17-year-old investor from a three-generation family of feminist activists and philanthropists. The sale was finalized on November 30.

"This is the first time in a decade that *Ms.* has been woman-owned, and the first time ever that its winning ad-free formula has been combined with such ownership," Gillespie said of the sale. Consulting editor Gloria Steinem, who preserved staff editorial control under the past three owners, said, "*Ms.* has always had editorial independence, but now we also have financial independence, and that is crucial. What has made this exciting future possible is the new network of women investors who put their money where their hearts are. *Ms.* first began to show consistent profits in 1990 when it became ad-free and asked its readers to pay full cost, as they would for a paperback book, but it lacked the investment necessary to introduce itself to a larger readership. Now at last readers and investors share the same vision and have the means to expand and build on the trust that *Ms.* has earned over a quarter-century."

Ms. was founded in 1972 as a women-controlled monthly financed, in part, by advertising. Its launch was greeted with tremendous excitement and the first issue to hit the stands sold out in eight days. Women's liberation was all the rage, and the magazine resonated, if not for women on the cutting edge of the women's liberation movement, then certainly for the wave of women surging into the spaces opened up by that cutting edge. Circulation soared to half a million, but too few advertisers with budgets large enough to buy ads in the glossy national magazine were willing to advertise in a magazine committed to interests outside the "food, fashion, and beauty" formula. In 1987 *Ms.* was sold to Australian-based Fairfax Communications (owners of *Sassy*), and in 1989 it was sold to Lang Communications, the publisher of *Working Woman* and *Working Mother*. At *Ms.*' behest, Lang experimented with the current successful ad-free

bimonthly format, which offers readers at least as much editorial content as most monthlies with ads. In 1996 *Ms.*, *Working Woman*, and *Working Mother* were sold to MacDonald Communications. But MacDonald, which also runs the National Association of Female Executives (NAFE), has been shifting its focus to "more synergistic" audiences (such as NAFE members) who are also willing to pay memberships fees and then shell out more money to attend expensive seminars. *Ms.*, with its diverse readership and broadly based editorial content, didn't fit that model and MacDonald began to consider selling or closing *Ms.* last spring.

The new, woman-owned *Ms.* will be relaunched in April with new staff (including Ophira Edut, co-founder of *Hues*), a new look ("more accessible and reader friendly") that will appeal to both older and younger feminists, a lighter tone ("while keeping the depth and analysis"), and "many exciting new elements and sections in addition to our fiction, investigative reporting, politics, poetry, humor and international coverage," Gillespie told *FBN*. "We're back!"

The next issue will drop at the end of March and will be called the April/May issue. *Ms.*' new address is 20 Exchange Place, 22nd Floor, NY NY 10005.

Britain's National Women's Library Gets £4.2 Million Grant

There is to be a National Library of Women in London, thanks to a £4.2 million grant from Britain's Heritage Lottery Fund. It will incorporate the Fawcett Library, which has its roots in the suffrage movement and holds Britain's oldest and most comprehensive collection of women-centered material, including priceless collections of books, periodicals, letters, papers, and artifacts. Items to be housed in the new national library include banners used by the women's suffrage movement and Emily Wilding Davison's return ticket to Epsom, which suggests that the suffragette may not have intended to sacrifice her life at the Derby.

The new library will be built on Old Castle Street in Aldgate (East London) and will record and celebrate the contribution of women through the ages in shaping the world we live in.

Carolyn Kizer, Maxine Kumin Resign from AAP to Protest White/Male Bias

Two Pulitzer Prize winning poets, Carolyn Kizer and Maxine Kumin, have resigned as chancellors of the Academy of American Poets to protest the Academy's extreme bias toward white men, the insularity among the (predominantly white male) chancellors, the absence of Blacks and other minority groups, and the lack of women.

The Academy, which was founded in 1934, promotes poetry nationally. Its twelve-member board of chancellors administers the country's largest literary award, the \$100,000 Tanning Prize, and the \$20,000 Academy Fellowship. Four of the five Tanning Prizes that have been awarded since its inception in 1994 have gone to white male poets. (Adrienne Rich was awarded the 1996 Tanning.) Of the 64 Fellowships the chancellors have awarded, only two have gone to African American poets, and only 14 have gone to women.

The Academy's board of directors has 26 members, only one of whom is Black (Jamaica Kincaid) and only seven of whom are women. Prior to 1987 there were no Blacks or Jews on the board at all.

Since the Academy was founded, there have been 57 chancellors. Twelve women have been elected, but there has never been a Black chancellor of either gender. The Academy had just failed to elect Lucille Clifton at the time Kizer and Kumin resigned.

1999 Zimbabwe International Book Fair Focus on Women



The theme for the 1999 ZIBF will be women. The Fair will open with a three day conference, "Women's Voices — Gender, Books, and Development" that will run July 31 to August 1. The cost for the conference is US\$120. A visitor pass for the Fair is an additional US\$85. Conference participation for people from Europe, the Caribbean, and North America is limited to

100 people. Applications are currently being accepted.

Set-up for the Fair will be on August 2. The trade and professional days will be August 3 to 5, and the Fair will be open to the public on August 6 and 7. Stands are US\$750, and double units are US\$1200, with a 15 percent discount if stands are paid for by April 15.

Three hundred exhibitors representing 500 publishers participated in last year's Fair when the focus was on children. Visitors during the trade days numbered 9240; 10,000 people attended during the public days.

Air fare from London to Zimbabwe costs around £740. Fares from San Francisco run from \$2500 to \$4000, or 75,000 frequent flier miles.

For more information about the program, registration, or travel, contact David Brine, ZIBF (UK) Ltd., PO Box 21303, London UK WC2E 8PH; +44 (0) 171 836 8501, fax same, email <zibf.kingstreet@dial.pipex.com>. To discuss programming, contact Margaret Ling, Managing Director, ZIBF (UK) Ltd., email <margaret.ling@geo2.poptel.org.uk>.

Women Writing Africa

The Feminist Press at the City University of New York is sponsoring a new project: Women Writing Africa. The ambitious project will collect both oral and written literary expression by women throughout Africa, both contemporary and historical. The Feminist Press will publish the works in a series of six anthologies, each focusing on a different region, as well as a series of books by and about individual African women.

Scholars from the U.S. and throughout Africa will collaborate in gathering, editing, and translating the texts. The project will collect and publish the widest possible definition of women's literary expression — including songs, praise poems, and significant oral texts, as well as fiction, short stories, drama, letters, and journals. Over seventy women are currently involved in various aspects of the project.

In addition to the publications that aim to make African women's writings available worldwide, the project will also promote the study of African women's writing. The project will create repositories in Africa for the narratives collected, establish a computer network

for experts in African women's history and culture, and promote egalitarian partnerships between African and non-African writers and scholars.

The first book in the series, *Zulu Woman: The Life Story of Christina Sibiyi* will be published in February. (See *FBN* Vol 21 #3) Other Feminist Press publications that will be incorporated into the series include *Changes* (1991) and *No Sweetness Here and Other Stories* (1995), both by Ama Ata Aidoo, *Across Boundaries: The Journey of a South African Woman Leader* by Mamphela Ramphele (1997), and *Teaching African Literatures in a Global Literary Economy*, a special issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly* (1997) edited by Tuzylne Jita Allan.

The Women Writing Africa project would like to hear from anyone who is using primary sources (oral or written) by African women, readers who own or have access to archives of African women's texts, and readers who can translate from an African language into English or French, from English into French, or French into English. The project is funded by The Ford Foundation. To contribute to Women Writing Africa or for more information, contact: Women Writing Africa, Project Coordinator, The Feminist Press at CUNY, Wingate Hall/City College, Convent Avenue at 138 Street, NY NY 10031.

The Feminist Press is also launching, this spring, Women Changing the World, a series of YA biographies of women who have won Nobel Peace Prizes. The first books in the series will be: *Aung San Suu Kyi: Standing up for Democracy in Burma* by Bettina Ling, *Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams: Making Peace in Northern Ireland* by Bettina Ling, and *Rigoberta Menchu: Defending Human Rights in Guatemala* by Michael Silverstone, all of which were announced for Fall 98 but postponed until Spring.

Breaking through the Race Barrier in Publishing — Part II

In last year's Black History/Women's History Months issue, we wrote about the City College of New York's Publishing Certificate Program — the brain-child of Walter Mosley and others concerned about the nearly lily-white face of mainstream publishing. The idea was to set up a publishing program that would equip CUNY students — 80 percent of

whom are people of color — with the skills they'd need to be successful in publishing and send those students to work on paid internships that get them "in the door." Mosley proposed the plan to City College President Yolanda Moses and put up \$10,000 of his own money as a seed grant to launch the program. A wonderfully creative mix of classes and informal seminars on every possible topic (including a pre-internship seminar on dealing with the *real* world of publishing) comprise the program. Upon completion of classwork, seven students were paired with in-house mentors and sent off to internships last summer. All seven completed their internship and graduated from the program. Two were offered positions. Fifty students are currently participating in the program at CUNY — including several who were already working in entry-level positions and seeking additional skills to enable them to advance their careers in the publishing industry.

For further information, to contribute financially to the program, or to offer internships, contact Program Director David Unger or Associate Director Catherine McKinley at CUNY, 212-650-7925 and -7927, respectively.

Sojourner Features Feminist Bookstores

Just in time to catch holiday shoppers, the Boston-based women's news magazine, *Sojourner*, ran a three-page article on the history of feminist bookstores, the loss of 25 feminist bookstores to super-chains, the vital importance of feminist bookstores, and, of course, how feminist bookstores and the women who depend on them are fighting back. Titled "If We Want Women's Bookstores to Be There, We Have to Support Them," the article features an interview with *FBN's* Carol Seajay. It includes an overview of the issues that threaten all independent bookstores in the country at this time. Many stores are making photocopies (with *Sojourner's* subscription information on them, of course). It's a long feature, but could easily be adapted for other publications. For a copy or for permission to reprint, write to *Sojourner* at 42 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain MA 02130; 617-524-0415, email (<info@sojourner.org>).

Feminist Bookstore Network Catalog "The Best Yet"

The 1998/1999 Feminist Bookstore Network (Holiday) Catalog is "absolutely the best yet" (Women and Children First), "fabulous" (Wild Iris Books), and "Great — love the in-your-face cover" (Brigit Books).

Feminist booksellers across the U.S. and in Canada have reported "even higher than expected" sales from this year's Feminist Bookstore Network (Holiday) Catalog. "Maybe it's the bold cover, or maybe it's that a critical mass of local stores have been lost and people are freaked to the point of actually supporting their stores," Common Language commented. The catalog sports a trendy new cover, an excellent collection of books, an introduction by Dorothy Allison, and a directory of feminist bookstores (with Web site, email, and conventional addresses as well as phone and fax numbers for all Feminist Bookstore Network member stores.) Shots of the FB-Net Catalog were aired on CSPAN in November 15.

Titles range from the extremely polemical to general interest titles such as *Working with Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman; participating publishers range from the smallest of the feminist presses to the world's largest corporate publishers. This year, for the first time, general independent booksellers in communities where there is no feminist specialty store were invited to distribute the Catalog.

Feminist Bookstore Meetings; ABA, BEA, and the LA Book Festival

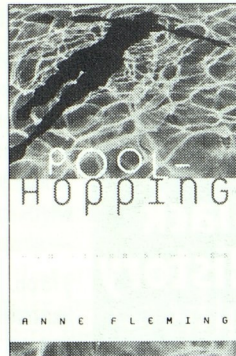
Book Expo America (BEA) and the American Booksellers Association meetings, after far too many years stuck in one location, will be held in Los Angeles from April 30 to May 2. Historically, BEA/ABA has been a traveling show, visiting different parts of the country each year, attracting booksellers in each region, along with those willing and financially able to travel to the trade show every year. After an extremely definitive show of hands at the ABA annual meeting two years ago, BEA got the message and moved the

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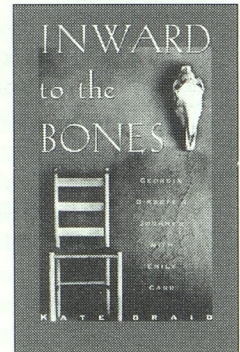
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show to Los Angeles for 1999. The very early dates and the shift to Friday through Sunday, rather than the customary Saturday through Monday, seem to be the cost of the last-minute move. Hopefully, despite the early dates, this will be such a strongly attended show that BEA will give up its commitment to parking the convention in Chicago for the next two years and *really* put the show back on the road.

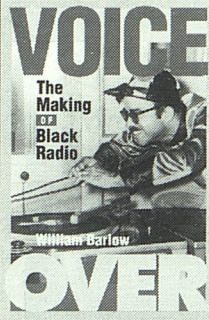
The annual Feminist Bookstore Network Conference will be held on the Wednesday and Thursday preceding BEA, April 28 and 29. FBN will once again book a block of hotel rooms for feminist booksellers, publishers, and friends. For more information, call the FBN office at 415-642-9993.

In keeping with the earlier dates, the Lambda Literary Awards will be held on Thursday, April 29. Given the near-Hollywood location, there are high hopes that the awards will be presented theater style — at the Paramount studios — with a reception before and a party afterwards, rather than the traditional, sit-down banquet dinner. Call the *Lambda Book Report* at 202-462-7924 or check the Web site (www.lambdalit.org) for details.

ABA always holds its annual membership meeting in conjunction with BEA. Hot topics will undoubtedly be updates on the ABA's lawsuit against Borders and Barnes & Noble, increased discussion on members' requests that ABA develop a mega-database comparable to B&N's or Amazon.com's online databases, investigation into the extreme terms that Amazon.com is demanding from small publishers (55% discount on 5+ copies of any small press title, freight-free, payable when sold), and discussion about combating the loss of in-store sales to the huge online book retailers. Also, ABA's proposed switch from a 20+ member Board of Directors to a nine-person Board is up for membership discussion and vote. (See "Commentary and Trivia.")

The best part of the convention could be celebrating in the aisles should the FTC decide to make the right decision and reject B&N's bid to purchase Ingram — but don't hold your breath. It usually takes at least two hearings for the FTC to come up with those kinds of decisions and, as we go to press, the first hearing isn't even scheduled.

The Fourth Annual Los Angeles Times Festival



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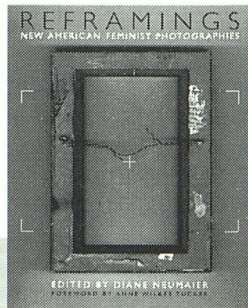
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of Books will be held the weekend before BEA, April 24 and 25, at UCLA's Dickson Plaza. A hundred thousand people attended the event last year; 350 authors participated in 83 author events. A 10' x 10' booth rents for \$700. Applications are due (with payment) by January 22, but earlier is better. For exhibitor information call 213-237-7321. To discuss author programming, call Cara DiMassa at 800-LATIMES, ext. 7BOOK or write to Festival of Books, Exhibit Applications, LA Times, 2nd Floor, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles CA 90053.

The Literary Congress January 16–19 in Phoenix

The other book industry show, The Literary Congress, meets January 16–19 in Phoenix, Arizona, in association with *ForeWord* Magazine and PROSE (the spring Promotional, Remainder, Overstock Exposition). Highlights will include a panel with Pat Holt (*Holt Uncensored*) and other industry movers and shakers discussing the battles in the industry and the shape of the future, a "What Works and Why" workshop, and the "Start-Up Academy" for new and perspective booksellers. Multi-track programs focusing on advertising, selling books, and promotion and publicity will compliment twenty-seven workshops, networking and discussion dinners, and, of course, publishers' book exhibits.

For updated information contact The Literary Congress, 2667 Hyacinth St., Westbury NY 11590; 516-338-6312, fax 516-333-0689; email <Readingent@aol.com>.

B&N-Owned Ingram?!!

B&N's announcement that it intends to buy Ingram, the nation's primary book wholesaler, rocked the bookselling industry this fall, setting off shock-waves of concern in a multitude of directions.

The deal, under which B&N would pay the Ingram family and other stockholders \$200 million in cash and \$400 million in stock, is presumably financed by B&N's sale of 50 percent of its spin-off company, barnesandnoble.com, to Bertelsmann for (coincidentally) \$200 million in cash. (B&N's

decision to create a separate company for its recently founded online division protects the "bricks and mortar" parent company from the financial losses associated with the development of major online sales companies, while still giving stockholders access to potential profits from actual book sales — should there ever be actual profits from mega-online bookstores — and, more significantly, access to profits from the skyrocketing prices of Internet stock.)

Bertelsmann, right up to the time it announced its purchase of half of b&n.com, had been giving every indication of signing a deal with the American Booksellers Association that would have created a viable online marketing program for independent booksellers and helped to restore competition to the book business. But B&N apparently had more to offer than independent bookstores...including the interlocking purchase of Ingram. Also, Bertelsmann and B&N are already partners in one of the new e-books start-up companies, Rocketbooks. (B&N has also recently signed a multimillion dollar deal with Microsoft to become the exclusive English-language bookseller on MSN.com and its global network of "portal" Web sites.)

B&N has its own reasons for wanting to own Ingram, not the least of which is that it can turn the book wholesaler into a fulfillment service for b&n.com orders. An estimated 80 percent of the book-buying public is only an overnight delivery away (at ground rates) from Ingram's eleven warehouses. Amazon.com currently buys 59 percent of its books from Ingram, and it presumably pays Ingram to drop-ship a high proportion of those books. Thus, through its ownership of Ingram, B&N would get the wholesaler's cut on all the books Amazon.com orders from Ingram. In addition, B&N's success at wooing Bertelsmann away from the ABA's proposed online venture reduces the potential, at least for the moment, for additional online sales competition. And given that Ingram is the primary wholesaler of books to independent bookstores in this country, it would give B&N (through Ingram) a percentage of sales from independents. All in all, it's a very nifty deal for B&N.

But even more importantly, the proposed sale means that virtually every independent bookseller in the country would be forced to depend on a company,

that is owned by a major competitor, to get the books it sells. In addition to being the primary or secondary wholesaler for an estimated 75–80 percent of independent bookstores, Ingram holds exclusive distribution contracts with a number of publishers.

And it means that, with every purchase, independents will be contributing to the coffers of a competitor that already has a reputation for treating independents and other competitors poorly. B&N is being sued by the ABA and 20 independents on those very charges: unfair competition under fair trade practices laws and violations of antitrust laws.

Few independent booksellers have any confidence that they will be treated fairly by Ingram, should the sale go through. It would be far too easy for Ingram to implement programs or de facto policies that would give fulfillment priority to B&N stores and b&n.com customers, and/or to reserve quantities of bestselling books and books with short press runs (such as unexpectedly strong sellers at Christmas time) for the wholesaler's "largest customers."

Further, the sale could give B&N access to independents' sales records and to their credit histories. The former could easily clue B&N in on upcoming independent bookstore bestsellers (and, indeed, Ingram could compile that information ahead of the industry-published bestseller lists). Even a *quick* glance at which independents have outstanding credit balances with Ingram could be used to tell B&N which independents are most vulnerable at any particular time and thus impact B&N's decisions regarding where to expand, where to increase advertising, etc.

Even minor shifts in credit policies could have tremendous impact on independents' access to stock. Given that B&N is competing with independents in almost every market in the country, even the smallest changes in the way credit policies are applied to specific independents' accounts at specific times could have tremendous impact on those independents' survival — and on B&N's domination in certain markets. The merging of wholesale and retail functions, particularly if given B&N's already tremendous buying power, could create situations where it would be very difficult for publishers and other suppliers to refuse to give the industry giant preferable terms. Also, the two-tier system of buying for both wholesale and retail resale would almost inevitably be used to give B&N a competitive advantage.

Given that B&N expects Ingram to provide fulfillment services for b&n.com orders, and given the growth projected over the next five years, it is unlikely that wholesale book sales to independents will remain Ingram's primary focus. At best, independents will experience declining service and fulfillment.

Further, Ingram has refused to assure independent bookstores that confidential information about their credit histories — and their sales — will not be given to B&N during the pre-sale period.

ABA and independent booksellers nationwide have mounted a major campaign to demand that both sales be rejected under antitrust laws. Customers — and senators — have joined the effort, signing petitions, sending letters, and demanding a full FTC investigation. The ABA has provided excellent leadership, sending information packets to every member bookseller (including sample letters, ABA's statement on the proposed sale, sample petitions for customers, and a straightforward outline of why this sale creates problems for the American reading public).

And, so far, that campaign has been successful. The FTC has agreed to hear the case and there is growing hope, as public pressure mounts, that the FTC will take the case seriously.

Round Three: Booksellers File Lawsuit to Protect Free Speech on the Internet

A Different Light Bookstores, Powell's Books, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, and 14 other companies and civil liberties groups have filed a lawsuit in federal court in Philadelphia to challenge the Child Online Protection (COP) Act.

The Act was approved by Congress as part of the budget bill in October, along with myriad other bills that were slipped into the budget bill for easy, undebated passage. COP makes it a crime for commercial Web sites to distribute material to a minor that is "harmful." Critics of the bill point out that because any material posted on the Web can be accessed by minors, online bookstores could be prosecuted for merely displaying book excerpts or covers which could be judged harmful to minors. Those convicted would face up to six months in jail and a \$50,000 fine.

This is the second time in three years that Congress has passed a sweeping law that would, if allowed to stand, limit the Internet to material that is suitable for children and the second time that booksellers have filed suit to protest. In 1996, Congress passed the Communications Decency Act which made it a crime to transmit "indecent" materials via the Internet. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the CDA was unconstitutional.

Cal-West Closes

Cal-West Periodicals, once one of the nation's ten largest magazine suppliers, has gone out of business. Industry observers speculate that Cal-West's closure was directly related to lower profit margins in magazine distribution for the last three years. The number of U.S. magazine distributors, according to *PW Daily*, has fallen in the last few years from 300 to 60, with 70 percent of the business controlled by five companies, a situation that some bookstore owners consider a monopoly-controlled business.

ABA's 1999 Forums

ABA is running another series of forums this year, bringing key staff, policy setters, and Board members to meet with booksellers across the U.S. These meetings give virtually every bookseller in the country a chance to tell ABA what their problems are, what they want ABA to do, and what they want ABA's priorities to be. And the wonderfully amazing thing is that ABA listens and prioritizes accordingly. These forums also give booksellers a chance to get updates on ABA's various projects and get a much clearer picture of what's going on at ABA and in the industry than you'll see in print anywhere. ABA Executive Director Avin Domnitz attended almost every (or maybe *every*) forum last year and expects to attend just as many this year. ABA's president and other officers and Board members also attend. I'd urge every bookseller in the country (ABA member or not) to invest a few hours in these meetings, to say what you need, and find out what's on the horizon. For details of the meeting nearest you, call ABA at 800-637-0037 or email Keva Mosher (keva@bookweb.org).

Sheryl Ann McInnes 1943–1998

By Jacqueline Dumas

Sheryl died peacefully at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday October 20, 1998, after being removed from life support. She was in a coma at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital after suffering from a heart attack at the Edmonton International Airport on October 15, 1998.

She is survived by her same-sex spouse Maureen Irwin and Maureen's children and grandchildren, her mother, her five children and four grandchildren, her siblings, and two nephews.

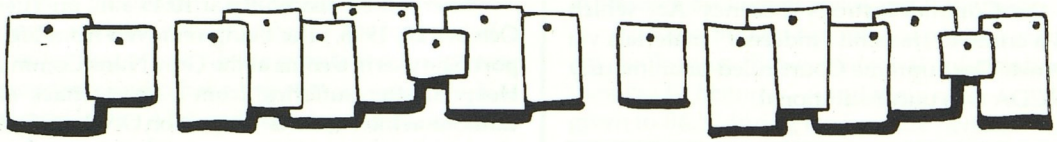
I first met Sheryl four-and-a-half years ago when I was getting ready to open Orlando Books. At the time she was involved with *Woman to Woman Books* and had heard about my plans to open a feminist bookstore. So she phoned and made an appointment to see me. It didn't take long to realize that she had come to suss me out, to see what my intentions were, to make sure that I was indeed intending to support the feminist and lesbian community. Over the next couple of months she kept an eye on me and must have been reassured, because once *Woman to Woman Books* was closed, she became one of my best and most loyal customers, even though a trip to my store meant a long bus ride for her. But this was Sheryl — a committed feminist who lived by her beliefs.

I'll really miss her presence, the long conversations we had about books, the exchange of ideas, and the exchange of gossip — especially about goings-on in the book trade. She was generous with her thoughts and loved to discuss them. I'll miss her quietly breezing in through the door, zeroing in on the two books in the queer theory section she hadn't read yet, saying, "Oh good, I've been waiting for these." I'll miss her unique store of knowledge.

She was on top of the books in her field like no one I've ever known. Sheryl would come in and ask about books that were still in the manuscript stage — she knew about them before the publishers did. I've spent 35 years in the book business, and I think Sheryl was the only customer I've ever had that I was not once able to surprise with a new title.

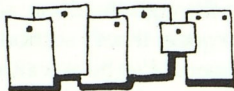
Over time, Sheryl became much more than a valued customer, she became a valued friend, a unique individual who I came to care for very much. ○

ANNOUNCEMENTS



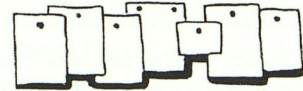
By Teri Mae Rutledge

WNBA (Women's National Book Association) awards booksellers the Lucile Micheels Panell Award for the stimulation, promotion, and encouragement of reading in children and young adults. The Pannell Award will bring a bookstore recognition throughout the book industry and the local community, a framed original piece of artwork by a contemporary children's book illustrator, and a \$750 prize. Any U.S. or Canadian bookstore that demonstrates an ongoing commitment through programs in and/or out of the bookstore that promote reading and involve children of any age is eligible. To enter, bookstores should send a 1000-word statement describing the store's programs for children. Entries can also include promotional materials, photographs, letters from customers, media coverage, and video clips. Lucile Micheels Pannell managed the Hobby Horse Bookshop in Chicago from 1943 to 1953. Send submissions to Andrea Brown, WNBA, PO Box 1137, Montara CA 94037; 650-728-1783. Deadline: January 22.



OutWrite 99, the eighth annual Queer Writers' Conference is February 26-28 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Keynote speakers include filmmaker Pratibha Parmar, poet and author Mark Doty, editor, publisher, and scholar Barbara Smith, and playwright Paul Bonin-Rodriguez. For more information on the conference (exhibiting, advertising, attending), contact Karen Bullock-Jordan, OutWrite Conference Director, BSEF, 29 Stanhope St., Boston MA 02116; 617-262-6969, email <outwrite@bsef.terranet.com>.

The Author's Guild has developed backinprint.com, a service to authors that makes their out-of-print books available for sale. To participate, an author must be a member of the Author's Guild and have copies of an out-of-print edition to sell. Writers will be charged \$35 for the first title and \$15 for each additional title. Prices of the books are to be determined by the author. Shakespeare & Co. in NYC will handle fulfillment. The store will warehouse up to ten copies of each book and maintain an 800 number. The proceeds are split between the writer (55%), Shakespeare & Co. (35%), and the Guild (10%).



In 1993 the Guadalajara International Book Fair, the Guadalajara School of Writers, and the French publisher Indigo/Coté-Femmes inaugurated the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize to recognize the published work of women writers. The award was named after Sor Juana, the first woman writer of Spanish America. Her poetry, theater, and journals constitute an important contribution to international literary arts. The prize brings attention to the work of a woman writer in the Spanish language; all women who have written a novel during the past three years are eligible. The prize includes publication and distribution of the winning entry in Mexico by Fondo de Cultura Económica Press and publication in the U.S. by Curbstone Press. The next winner will be announced at the GIBL in December 1999. Guidelines are available in January. Contact the Guadalajara School of Writers, Av. Circ. Agustín Yáñez #2839, Guadalajara, 44110, JAL, Mexico. ○

News FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Carol Seajay

The new owners of Lammas (Washington DC), Denise Bump and Sylvia Colon, and staff and friends celebrated Lammas' 25th anniversary by hosting a three day conference, "Strong Women Keep Coming, Three Generations of Women Speaking and Acting for Our Lives" and a banquet honoring the work of long-time Lammas owner, Mary Farmer. The guest list for the banquet and the conference program read like a who's who of, well, the last three generations of feminist activists. Special promotions included a 25 percent discount on gift items on Anniversary Saturday for everyone wearing (or buying) Lammas' 25th anniversary t-shirts, a 20 percent discount on adult toys and leather goods on Anniversary Friday (no, it wasn't advertised as Dildo Day), as well as \$2 discount on purchases for everyone who came in on Halloween in any kind of drag or costume. New events at Lammas continue to draw new (and familiar) faces: Cardio-Boxing (on the roof garden) is a bookstore first, as far as I know, but why not? In the 80s it was twelve-step meetings, now it's group exercise. Lammas is also the meeting place for "Walking the District with Pride" (for customers who want a bit of history with their exercise). Movie Night is on Tuesday (big screen with surround sound). Lammas is the place to make a shirt for the Clothesline Project during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October). Humor and performance with the Therapy Sisters change the mood back. Reading circles, drumming circles, spirituality discussions and Family Day round out the rest of the programming. Something for everyone — in a diverse and complex community — seems to be Lammas' theme.

Antigone Books (Tucson) celebrated their 25th anniversary with — among other things — commemorative chocolate bars. The front of the wrapper

features a sketch of the store and Bechdel-esque books (*Our Bon Bons*, *Ourselves*, *Women Who Run with the Truffles*) and the back has appropriate advisories (No Feminists were harmed while making this chocolate; Serving size: as many as you can eat) and store ingredients (books, gifts, silly staffers, elephant, purple bathroom, book groups, Darwin & gefilte fish, rolodexes, fun customers and the occasional dog). Perfect stocking stuffers, perfect traveling advertising.

My Sisters' Words (Syracuse), after throwing a series of tenth anniversary events last year, decided to forego all the work of planning an event this year and encouraged customers and the community to celebrate the store's birthday by taking a quiet hour on anniversary weekend ("Put it on your calendar right

Market Research Results

In-store market research at My Sisters Words (Syracuse) reveals that:

- 93% of customers are female, 7% are male
- 13% are ages 10–19; 16% are 20–29, 26% are 30–39, 16% are 40–49, 20% are 50–59, 6% are 60 or older

Customers say they support the store for the following reasons:

- Selection — 43%
- Service — 23%
- For community information — 20%
- Because it's an independent business — 13%

Frequency:

- 58% had been in the store at least once during the previous month
- 13% had been in within the previous six months
- 16% had been in within the previous year
- 15% were visiting that week for the first time in a few years

now!") to themselves to read.... It seemed like a good idea right up 'til anniversary day when there was no party and not a lot of people in the store — everyone stayed home to read! (How rare it is that feminists do as they're told!) "I won't ever *not* have a party again!" Mary Ellen Kavanagh told *FBN*. My Sisters' Words also held its first annual Sleepover Contest. All of the bookgroups who used Mary Ellen's services as a consultant (with no charge except for the groups' commitments to buy their books at the store) were eligible. The members of the winning group got to spend an evening at the store and read as long and as late as they wanted.

Congratulations to New Words and Gilda Bruckman. The store received two well-deserved awards this year: the Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance of Massachusetts Award for Service to Women and the Greater Boston Business Council's Small Business Recognition Award from the gay community. Gilda was recognized with the Cambridge Peace Commission's Peace and Justice Award, which is given every year to people working in the community.



Big successful events? Amazon (Minneapolis) sold 100 copies of *Family Outing* when Chastity Bono was at the store: those local girls like those out-of-town celebrities. Chastity outsold even Kate Clinton. In Chicago 400 people turned out for Barbara Kingsolver's reading at Women and Children First, surpassing even the records set by the Gloria Steinem and Susan Faludi readings.

In Canada, the Event of the Season was Alice Walker's reading, sponsored by the Toronto Women's Bookstore. The 1200-seat hall sold out well in advance, and 100 people bought standing-room-only tickets. An additional 200 people attended the post-reading benefit for TWB and the Congress of Black Women. Dionne Brand did an incredibly moving introduction in which she paid tribute to TWB and all of the women's bookstores. CBC-TV did a video segment on the store and the Indies vs. Chains situation as a tie-in. Booksales at the event exceeded \$6000. "The best possible bookstore

did a wonderful job," said Random House/Canada to local chainstores' morning-after call to find out why they didn't get the event.

TWB also reports a whopping success with text books this year: "We had our highest September in years (around \$120,000) and sold more course books than ever before. The academic community is so wonderfully supportive of us," Anjula Gogia wrote to *FBN*.

The Women's Bookstop (Hamilton, Ontario), in conjunction with a local art gallery, facilitated a women's art shop for Wife Assault Prevention Month. Fifty women sent artwork. Promo for the opening publicized the bookstore and the art gallery.

In Edmonton, Orlando Books brought their community into their new space with Orlando-A-Go-Go: The First Annual Beat the Big Box Celebration! The party ran from nine a.m. to midnight and featured videos all day (*Paris Was A Woman, Who's Counting?*, *Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics*, *Stolen Moments*, *The Celluloid Closet*, and *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk*). The invitation read, "By coming into our store on this one day and buying just one book, you'll help us finish paying our moving expenses and ensure our survival through the winter. You'll also be keeping your book dollars in the community. So come in, buy a book, and pick up your copy of this year's Feminist Bookstores Catalogue. Thanks to all our customers for your continued loyalty and support!" The move, Jackie Dumas reports, went wonderfully well. "We managed to do it all in a day with a truck and a group of 25 volunteers. It was uplifting, with all of these wonderful women cleaning and sawing and hammering and drilling all around."

Sharon Collingwood of Womansline Books told this story during an e-list discussion about the frustrations of working with academic women who don't understand that feminist bookselling is a community service rather than a wealth-generating activity: "During Breast Cancer Month I did a book table for the Canadian Auto Workers local in Ingersoll, a small town outside of London. Instead of trying to get me to pay a fee (so often we get asked to pay a share of the profits, which usually means that we break even for the day — or less), I was helped in with the books, fed

tea and carrot cake, and thanked profusely for coming. I was told that all the CAW women loved the bookstore and wanted to support us in any way they could, so they're giving us free advertising in the Local's newsletter and, to top it all off, I was given a bouquet of flowers when I left! OK, I didn't make a lot of money, but that was one of the best tables I've done this year! The CAW Women's Caucus is by far the most supportive of the organizations we're involved with. They're a great bunch of women, straight talkers, and they are totally in the real world. Maybe academic feminism isn't where we should be looking for support?"

It's winter, it's cold, and food is the issue: A Room of One's Own's café is now serving homemade hot soup. Book•Woman celebrated "not your ordinary Thanksgiving" with Turning the Tables II: A Feminist Literary Feast, "benefiting Book•Woman, serving up food for thought 360 days a year." The event featured readings and recipes — and food — from women of local and national literary acclaim. Tickets were \$28. Book•Woman, being in the heart of Texas, always celebrates Virgin Day on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This year's event (noon 'til rapture!) featured an altar-making workshop, the premiere performance of Feminist Bookstore Catalog Web site maven Amanda Johnston's *Dyke Dharma* (her film about the roles of spirituality in the lives of lesbians), a lively discussion with the Amanda, sacred and sumptuous food, and the Virgin Toss. (The only way to get details was to be there yourself!) Book•Woman is now hosting Sunday brunches. "Come to talk, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself among your sisters, your community, and your books."



Charis (Atlanta) sponsored its third annual "Cooking With Honey" dinner inspired, of course, by the Firebrand book of the same title. "We made a fabulous dinner from recipes by lesbians, then had readings by/about lesbians and food. It was great fun!" Linda Bryant wrote to *FBN*. Charis and a group of local women also brought Eve Ensler to Atlanta for a series of four shows from *The Vagina Monologues*. The series benefited Men Stopping Violence, the

Horizon Theatre, and the Charis Circle. Tickets sold out the first week.

Charis' response to Ingram's sale to B&N? They blew up the statement from ABA's information packet to poster size, put a heading on it reading "This Bookstore Is Endangered," posted it on the outside of the store, and invited people to come in and sign the petition. "It feels good to be giving people solid information with blatant examples," Sara Look wrote to *FBN*. "People really seem to be getting it." ○

Commentary, continued from page 61.

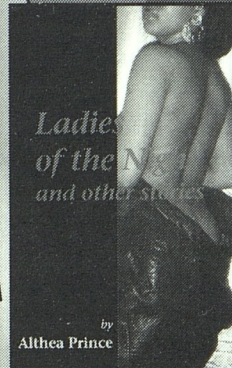
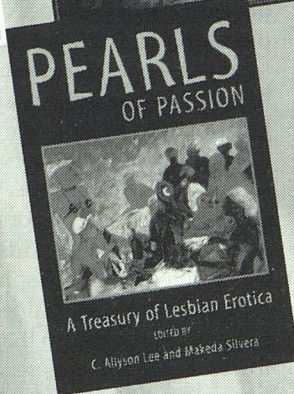
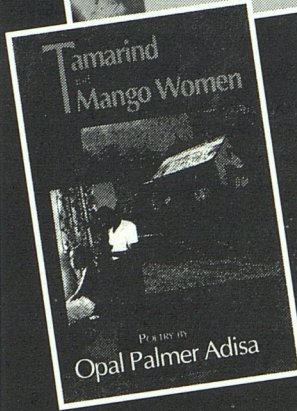
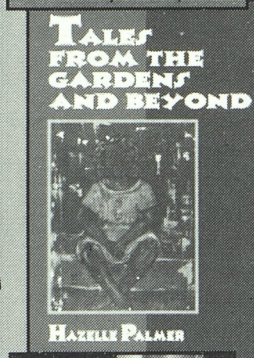
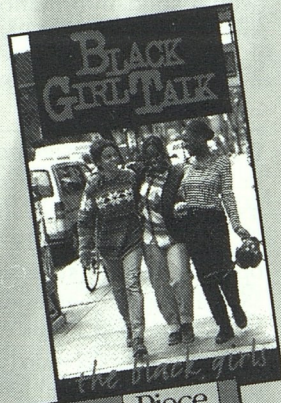
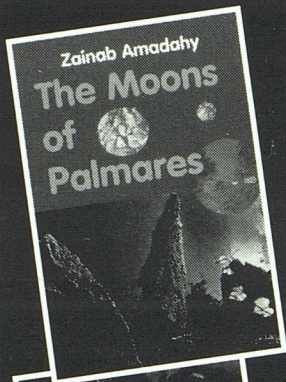
know that *all* of Borders' growth isn't coming from independents' market share.

B&N's sales for the same quarter are up 10%. It opened 17 new superstores and comparable store sales are up 4.5% at its superstores. But despite rising sales, operating losses of \$20.5 million at its newly opened online division (which is being spun off into a separate corporation) left the superchain in the red.

Amazon.com, where sales and losses are both up, has expanded its operations to Germany (www.amazon.de) and the U.K. (www.amazon.co.uk) to sell German, British, and U.S. publications. After successfully adding music to its mix, the online giant is now going into video and DVD distribution as well as "personal electronics, games, gadgets, and toys for all ages." All of which, combined with Amazon.com's recent raids on Wal-Mart's computer program design staff, increases speculation that Amazon.com will shift to a mid-range pricing policy on the new items and eventually abandon its less profitable (and highly discounted) original product — books — altogether. But it won't be soon enough to help stores that are already in financial crisis due to loss of sales to the online giant.

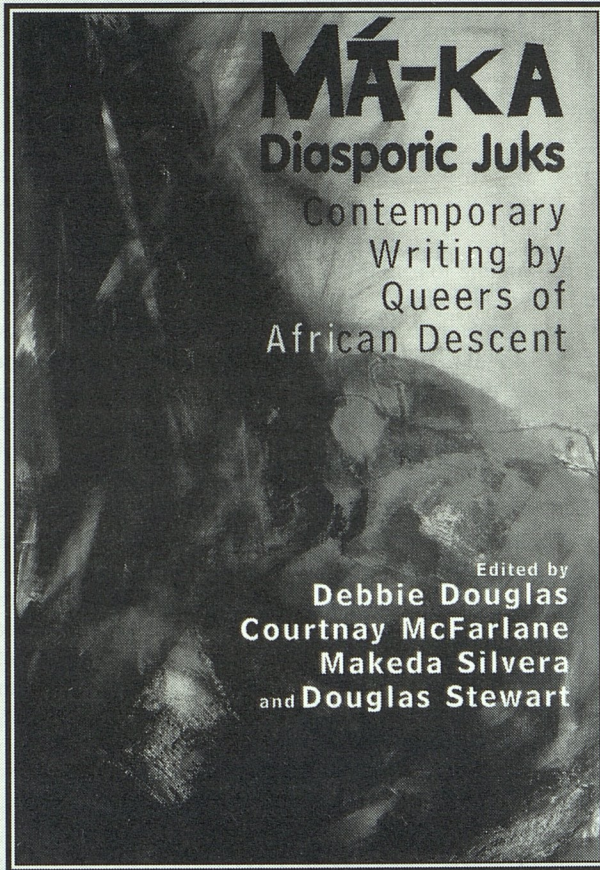
Canadian superstore Indigo (the latest big threat to Canadian Indies) has found a new way to bring people into the bookstore: get a license to serve beer and wine. Now *that* adds to the late evening/weekend singles club atmosphere. Does it sell books? If it makes money, what does it matter? Besides, booze has a higher mark-up than books *and* you don't have to stock 160,000 different kinds. Maybe they'll discover that books are just wallpaper and, à la Amazon.com, decide to discontinue them.... ○

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GUERNICA EDITIONS

PROFILE:

Shades of Sienna: African-American Children's Books

By Teri Mae Rutledge

Anita Alexander, the owner of Shades of Sienna: African-American Children's Books (Oakland CA), has mountains of good ideas, the passion and drive to bring them to fruition, and the good business sense to make them work — wonderfully. She has great energy, and she's obviously embracing her new role in life as a bookseller.

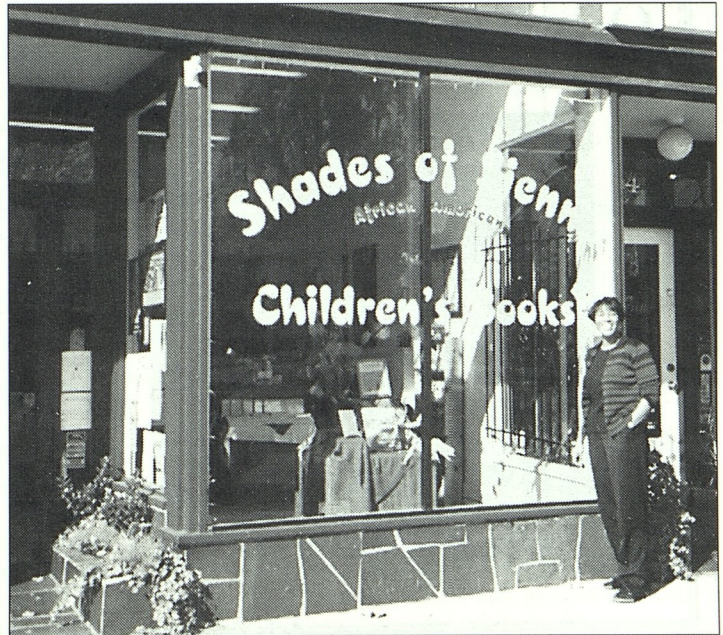
I visited Shades of Sienna on a gorgeous sunny late November day. The store is across the street from Oakland's Lake Merritt, a lovely location with a fair amount of foot traffic from nearby apartment residents. Anita admitted that she absolutely loves the big sunny picture window and staring at the lake. Prior to opening Shades of Sienna three years ago, Anita was a lab technician in a windowless lab at a local hospital.

Shades of Sienna is housed in a long, thin space, with books lining each wall. The store is spacious (1500 square feet) — kids can sprawl out on the floor, play, read, and do artwork. Though the store's stock is mostly children's books, Anita has recently added some adult titles (she offers a 15 percent discount on all adult books) and has begun an adult bookclub. (They're currently reading *The Healing* by Gayl Jones.) The store has one floor of retail space, with an additional conference room upstairs where she hosts her Career Days programs. Anita's other in-store events feature both children's and adult book authors.

Anita finds that young adult books are one of the strongest-selling genres in the store. "That's a difficult age. Parents are competing with electronics and computers, but they still want their kids to be reading.... I sell a lot of those books to frustrated parents," she said.

Anita also sells a few sidelines (dolls, stamps, cards, and games) which she stocks more heavily at Christmas and Easter than at other times of the year. Every spring, she makes up Easter baskets with books instead of candy, and those move well.

Anita estimates that 50–60 percent of Shades of Sienna's books are by women, and that 80 percent of



Anita Alexander and Shades of Sienna's Oakland storefront.

the books are about girls. "I actually have a hard time finding picture books for boys," Anita said, "and they're the one group that really needs them." (See sidebar for Anita's favorite picture books for boys and girls.)

Book Fairs

Anita didn't know that she had bookselling in her blood until she had children and began looking for books appropriate for them. It seemed natural and obvious to her that her children should read books that would reflect their experience, books specifically geared to African American children. But those books simply weren't available through traditional channels. So Anita began hunting. She found that great books for African American children definitely did exist — and in large numbers — but there simply wasn't a single place to get them all. So Anita began collecting. Soon her co-workers at the hospital were asking her where she got the books she carried around. All too often, they were surprised that such books existed. When she suggested that they needed to shop in Black bookstores and do some searching to

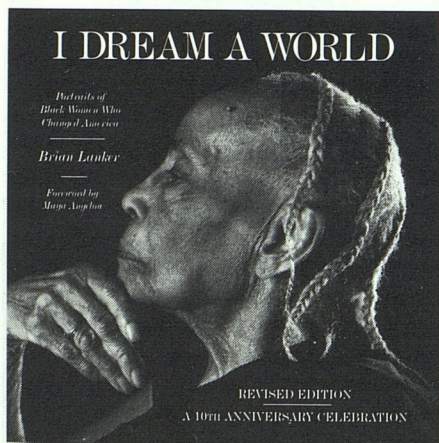
get good books for their kids, they were surprised again — this time that the books weren't universally available.

"People need to know that African American kids' books exist," Anita said firmly. This conviction motivated her to take her books to the community.

"Book fairs were the most expeditious way for me to get my books into the community," Anita said. She rented a conference room at the Days Inn, sent out promotional mailings, bought advertising in local papers, and was written up in the *Oakland Tribune*. Distributors didn't provide catalogs or a lists of African American children's books, so Anita did extensive research before ordering. A friend who worked in the book industry took up the challenge of special-ordering the books.

Sales were brisk. Anita had launched the first fair at Christmas time, and the community response was so good that she set up subsequent fairs for Black History Month and Easter, and also ran a Summer Reading fair. As the book fairs got more frequent and sales rose, Anita decided to find a permanent home for her collection.

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STEWART, TABORI & CHANG

In 1996 Shades of Sienna opened its doors. Anita did some publicity mailings and got media attention from the *Contra Costa Times*. Last year was her best year yet, after seeing lots of up-and-down retail traffic in 1996 and 1997. She's slowly expanding her customer base, and, once people discover the store, they're incredibly loyal. Anita hopes that as the store becomes better-known in the community, it will get more media coverage.

The Literacy Connection

One of the reasons for increased sales in 1998 was Anita's work in public school libraries. "With the whole literacy kick right now, something finally clicked with the principals — that kids would be more interested in reading if they could relate to the books."

The principal of Emerson Elementary School in Oakland decided to take an informal inventory of the school library. She went in, took a good look, and began tossing books. By the time she was through, she had gotten rid of about half of the library's collection. Many of the books were old, and few were multicultural. Though the student body is 80 percent African American, only 5–10 percent of the books were about African American kids. The principal, a Shades of Sienna customer, called Anita for help in rebuilding the collection.

With some input from teachers, Anita created a list of books for each age group. She included Asian and Latina/Latino titles as well as books for African American kids. She gave the school a 15 percent discount, and ultimately ordered 400 books for the library. (The school spent over \$6000.) "It was a kick going in afterwards and seeing all the books there," she said.

Cox Elementary School in Oakland soon followed suit and asked Anita to rebuild their collection. Anita was pleased to repeat the process. Now such partnerships are a part of her future plans for the store. "I figure there's a lot of schools in Oakland," she deadpanned.

The principal at Cox also takes an active role in involving staff and parents in kids' education. Sometimes, as a reward to staff for attending the extra programming, he hands out \$100 gift certificates, redeemable at Shades of Sienna, that teachers and librarians can use to stock their classrooms or the library.

These symbiotic relationships have not been without glitches, though. Anita has encountered resistance

from school librarians and teachers who balked at buying their stock from a bookstore. They argued that they could order books more cheaply from Baker & Taylor or Ingram. Also, perhaps because of Anita's newness in her field (heck, let's face it — she's *establishing* a field) they might not have recognized her valuable expert advice for what it was. With both schools, Anita had trouble collecting payment — the bureaucracy was not set up to buy library books from a bookstore. Emerson's principal interceded on Anita's behalf, speeding up the lengthy collection process.

Another teacher/customer hatched a plan to introduce families to Shades of Sienna — she sent her students' parents to the store to buy almanacs and atlases required for her class. However, again, there has been some resistance — this time from parents. Out of a class of 30, only seven sets of books have been sold. And at least one parent complained vociferously (about the extra cost, about having to find the store, etc.) the entire time he was in the store. This resistance underscored the importance of educating parents about their role in their children's literary lives.

But in the end, working with public schools is well worth the effort. Anita has filled a dire need in two schools and has become active in the greater community in ways that she never could from behind the doors of the store.

And what an incredible affirmation: to have public institutions recognizing your expertise and asking for help.

Books on Sunday

Anita has always thought about the role of Shades of Sienna in the larger community. Perhaps it's in the store's nomadic book-fair history, but Anita often takes Shades of Sienna on the road to places where kids gather.

One place that Shades of Sienna goes is to church. Anita packs up her car on Sunday morning and hits the parking lot just as church lets out. The kids are a captive audience, and her Sunday sojourns are a brilliant way of bringing literature to people committed to family and children's education. There has been some bureaucratic resistance in churches, too — Anita has tried to get Shades of Sienna listed in church bulletins, but the churches seem to think that, as a business, she's somehow taking advantage of them. She also mentioned that more and more churches are putting

Picture Book Recommendations

By Anita Alexander

I've put together two groups of ten each for boys and girls, although I could have easily made it a hundred of each of my favorites!

It is essential that children see themselves and their culture reflected in the world in which they live. Children's literature is the perfect arena to address this because kids are naturally excited about books. Learning to read is one of the biggest accomplishments in a child's life, and when it happens he or she wants to read everything from books to cereal boxes. Ask any parent about the mixed blessing of having to hear your little one read every street sign they see on a trek across town! So, imagine how it must feel to open book after book and never see anyone who bears any resemblance to you. The message is implanted that you don't exist or maybe somehow you just aren't good enough to be included.

Which is why I find it so interesting that the overall number of picture books available featuring African American girls as the main character outnumbers the books featuring African American boys two to one. Is this discrepancy systematic? Has the historical exclusion of the Black male worked so well that his absence is taken for granted even in the arena of children's literature?

African American Picture Books for Boys (Ages 0-8)

1. **Grandfather and I** by Helen E. Buckley, illustrated by Jan Ormerod, \$16 cl, 0-688-12533-6, Lothrop Lee & Shepard.
2. **Jamal's Busy Day** by Wade Hudson, illustrated by George Ford and Valerie W. Wesley, \$12.95 cl, 0-940975-21-1, Just Us Books.
3. **My Best Friend** by P. Mignon Hinds, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright, 0-30-716167-6, Golden Books. *The publisher reports being out of stock on this item; some more aggressive searching may turn up some copies.*
4. **Getting Dressed** (A Jump at the Sun Board Book) by Dessie Moore, illustrated by Chevelle Moore, 0694005908. *This title is listed as "out of print." Again, some extra digging will be necessary to get your hands on this.*
5. **The Adventures of Sparrowboy** by J. Brian

Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, \$16 cl, 0-689-81071-7, Simon & Schuster.

6. **Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon!** by Pat Cummings, \$5.99 pb, 0-689-71798-9, Simon & Schuster.
7. **Fireflies for Nathan** by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim, illustrated by John Ward, \$4.99 pb, 0-14-055782-2, Puffin.
8. **The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats, \$6.99 pb, 0-670-86733-0, Viking.
9. **Max Found Two Sticks** by J. Brian Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, \$5.99 pb, 0-689-81593-X, Simon & Schuster.
10. **Your Dad Was Just Like You** by Dolores Johnson, \$13.95 cl, 0-02-747838-6, Macmillan.

African American Picture Books for Girls (Ages 0-8)

1. **Baby's Colors** by Naomi McMillan, illustrated by Keaf Holliday, 0307128733. *This title is currently out of print.*
2. **Jamaica's Find** by Juanita Havill, \$11.95 cl, 0-6060-2973-7, Demco Media.
3. **Amazing Grace** by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch, \$15.99 cl, 0-803-71040-2, Dial Books for Young Readers.
4. **Cornrows** by Camille Yarbrough, illustrated by Carole Byard, \$5.99 pb, 0-698114-36-1, Paper Star.
5. **Cendrillon: A Creole Cinderella** by Daniel San Souci, illustrated by J. Brian Pinkney, \$14.40 cl, 0-689-80668-X, Simon & Schuster.
6. **May'naise Sandwiches and Sunshine Tea** by Sandra Belton, illustrated by Gail G. Carter, \$14.95 cl, 0-027090-35-3, Four Winds.
7. **Nappy Hair** by Carolivia Herron, illustrated by Joe Cepeda, \$6.99 pb, 0-679-89445-4, Random House.
8. **You're My Nikki** by Phyllis Rose Eisenberg, illustrated by Jill Kastner, \$12 cl, 0-6060-8410-X, Demco Media.
9. **Julius** by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Dave Pilkey, \$6.95 pb, 0-531071-02-2, Orchard.
10. **Raising Dragons** by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera, edited by Paula Wiseman, \$16 cl, 0-152012-88-5, Silver Whistle. ○

guards in their parking lots. (Which she says isn't necessarily a *problem*, it just usually involves a little sweet-talking....) Anita also has been known to take books to schools in the morning before classes start.

Books and Coffins

Shades of Sienna is hard to miss. Hard, that is, if Anita has given you directions: "You'll see the coffin outlet, and we're right next door." And the coffin outlet is impossible to miss — big sign, corner storefront, coffins displayed in every window. Anita couldn't believe her landlord when he told her what was coming to the space next door. However, the outlet did get a lot of publicity — apparently it's the first discount casket business in existence. Sadly, all the newspaper photos seemed to crop out Shades of Sienna, but the outlet gets a lot of business, and, ironically, some of that business has traveled next door. Parents bring children to Shades of Sienna "to cheer them up" after their visit to the casket outlet. Anita has responded by stocking a line of books on death and dying, as well as a line of sympathy cards.

Her regular customers — the kids — generally think that the casket outlet is pretty cool. The only folks who are sometimes uncomfortable with it are their parents.

More Success

Shades of Sienna has also birthed a book. Anita co-wrote, along with Susan Payne, *Gingersnaps: Daily Affirmations for African American Children and Families* (\$8.95 pb 0-7868-1306-7), which is a part of Disney/Hyperion's much-touted Jump at the Sun series, a line of children's books that celebrates the African American experience.

Anita's mother raised her children with affirmations. They were stories that, Anita says, instilled in her a lot of ambition and a lot of confidence. She had always wanted to see those affirmations in print so that other families could benefit from them, too.

In 1996, Anita invited Daphne Muse (editor of the young adult book, *Prejudice: Stories about Hate, Ignorance, Revelation, and Transformation*, and of the new resource, *The New Press Guide to Multicultural Resources for Young Readers* — see page 35 for more information) to read at the store and, as sometimes happens, no one attended the reading. So Anita and Daphne started talking. Eventually, Anita mentioned

that she had an idea for a book and asked Daphne how she might go about publishing it.

Daphne gave her the name and telephone number of her agent, who happened to be the extremely successful Marie Brown. Anita put together a proposal in February 1997 and sent it off to Marie. Marie held it for several months so she could pitch it to Disney/Hyperion for their Jump at the Sun series. In late November, Hyperion accepted the proposal, telling Anita that they planned to release the book in February.

By industry standards, this is *no* kind of schedule for book production, let alone book *creation*. And, for booksellers, working on extra projects in November/December is ludicrous.

When faced with these realities, Hyperion agreed to a March release date (making the project *slightly* less impossible). Beginning in December, Anita and her co-author, Susan Payne, faxed pages nightly to their editors, who would respond via fax by the next morning. It was an intense two-month process. But in the end, *Gingersnaps* was written, printed, and in Anita's hands by late February. And it is a gorgeous book. Hyperion's design — particularly the page layout — is simple and lovely.

Disney is treating its Jump at the Sun authors well. Anita and Susan attended the Disney kick-off party in New York City's Amsterdam Theater, where they saw music from the Lion King performed and Anita got her first taste of book schmoozing on a big-city scale. *Gingersnaps* has gotten lots of media attention, including reviews in *Woman's Day* and *Essence Magazine*. And, to top it all off, Hyperion has asked Susan and Anita to write another book: this time a book of affirmations for teenage girls.

Anita Alexander is a bookseller to keep an eye on. I know that if I call her in three or four months, she'll be pursuing another completely original marketing idea. Her freshness and enthusiasm are inspiring, and I hope that Bay Area elementary school libraries are wise enough to let her revamp their collections, that New York is smart enough to keep publishing her writing, and that the Oakland community will continue to come to Lake Merritt in droves to see and appreciate the tremendous resource it has in her and Shades of Sienna.

Shades of Sienna, 582 Grand Ave., Oakland CA 94610; 510-893-2767. ○

New Fiction from Knopf, Pantheon and Vintage

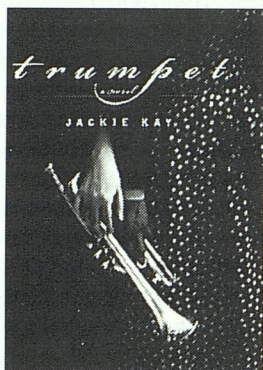
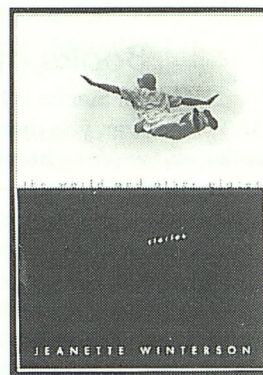
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Trumpet

Jackie Kay

Pantheon, \$23 cl; 0-375-40509-7

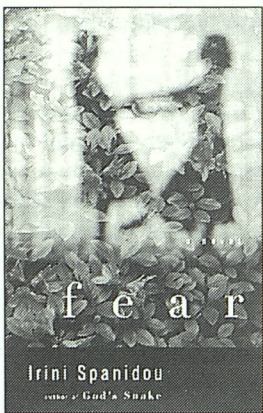
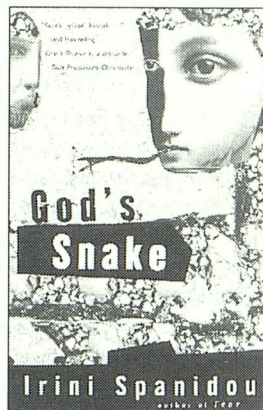
Winner of the *Guardian* 1998 Fiction Prize, *Trumpet* is a mesmerizing first novel about the boundaries of identity and the essential nature of love. "A love story, a fairy tale, and a psychological thriller spun out of one deep secret. Kay has a great gift for delving inside sundry souls, making poetry of their quirks. Her prose ripples like jazz and brims with exquisite insights." —Andrea Ashworth, *Once in a House on Fire*.

God's Snake

Irini Spanidou

Vintage International, \$13 pb, 0-375-70286-5

"Stark, vivid, heroic, and haunting...*God's Snake* is a miracle." —*San Francisco Chronicle*. Set amid the arid landscape and stony resentments of Greece in the aftermath of its bloody civil war, this electrifying novel is the story of the inventive, courageous Anna, a young girl who has inherited both the skepticism of classical Athens and the fierce stoicism of Sparta.



Fear

Irini Spanidou

Knopf, \$21 cl; 0-394-58055-9

Irini Spanidou's profoundly felt and enthralling new novel is set in Greece in the 1950s, and the spartan military world that has shaped Anna. As Anna turns 13, she is stunned by her own mysterious responses to the adolescent boys and girls around her, by rumors of a serial killer in the neighborhood, by the increasing tensions between herself and her adored and difficult father. We see her moving, fearfully yet with intelligence and nerve, into womanhood.

For Older Girls...

By Linda Boubon
Women and Children First/Chicago

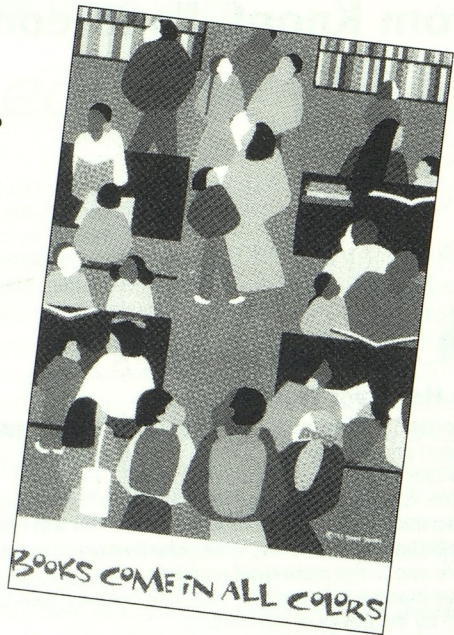
Women's History Month Nonfiction **Ages 10 and up**

- **Ten Queens: Portraits of Women in Power** by Milton Meltzer and Bethanne Anderson. \$24.95 cl, 0-525-45643-0, Viking.
- **Cool Women: The Thinking Girl's Guide to the Hippest Women in History** edited by Pam Nelson. \$19.95 pb, 0-965975-40-1, Girl Press.
- **Girls Who Rocked the World: Heroines from Sacajawea to Sheryl Swoopes** by Amelie Welden, illustrated by Jerry McCann. \$8.95 pb, 1-885223-68-4, Beyond Words.
- **What Every American Should Know about Women's History** by Christine Lunardini. \$10.95 pb, 1-558506-87-X, Bob Adams Publishers.
- **Scholastic Encyclopedia of Women in the United States** by Sheila Keenan. \$17.95 cl, 0-590-22792-0, Scholastic.

Also, Chelsea House has a huge line of biographies including The American Women of Achievement series, many of which are in paperback. For a catalog, contact Chelsea House, 1974 Sproul Road Ste. 204, Broomall PA 19008; 610-353-5166.

Black History Month Nonfiction **Ages 12 and up**

- **But Some of Us Are Brave** edited by Gloria Hull, et al. \$15.95 pb, 0-912670-95-9, The Feminist Press. Distributed by Consortium.
- **Having Our Say** by Sarah and Bessie Delaney. \$6.99 pb, 0-440-22042-4, Bantam.
- **In My Place** by Charlayne Hunter Gault. \$12 pb, 0-679-74818-0, Random House.



Rainbow Poster by artist Synthia St. James,
available from American Library Association Graphics
(800-545-2433)

- **A Raisin in the Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry. \$5.50 pb, 0-679-75533-0, Random House.
- **A Shining Thread of Hope** by Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson. \$14 pb, 0-7679-0111-8, Broadway Books.

A reminder: The Women's National Book Association (212-675-7805 or <http://bookbuzz.com/wnba.html>) has a wonderful brochure entitled "Eighty Books for 21st Century Girls," which they compiled for their 80th anniversary. They invite us to photocopy this list. It's the best books, with great annotations.

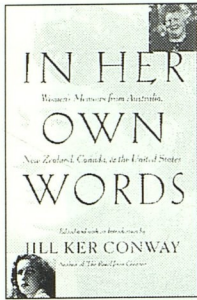
Historical Fiction, Ages 8-12

I've written about quite a few books in the Dear America series from Scholastic. Ten titles are available, and two more will be out in Spring 99.

American Diaries is a series by Kathleen Duvey. \$3.99 each pb, Simon & Schuster.

See *Older Girls*, page 84.

New Nonfiction from Knopf, Pantheon and Vintage



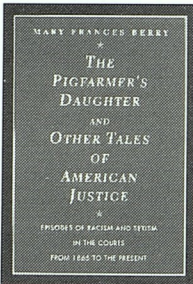
In Her Own Words

Women's Memoirs from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States

edited and with an introduction by Jill Ker Conway

A Vintage Original, \$18 pb, 784 pp; 0-679-78153-6

In this dazzling collection, we meet eleven remarkable women — from Shirley Chisholm, the West Indian-raised woman who became the first Black U.S. Congresswoman, to 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. These are women who have made a difference — with their honesty, their struggle for self-knowledge and autonomy, and by the power of their writing.



The Pig Farmer's Daughter and Other Tales of American Justice

Episodes of Racism and Sexism in the Courts from 1865 to the Present

Mary Frances Berry
Knopf, \$24 cl, 320 pp;
0-679-43611-1

From the head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, a

groundbreaking book that examines both civil and criminal court cases, from the Civil War to the present, to reveal the impact of stereotyping on the American legal system. Using American case law, Berry shows how attitudes toward gender, race, class, and sexuality have influenced, and continue to influence, judicial decision-making. A book that fascinates as much for its human drama as for its political implications.

The Three Penny Review, explores both how we discover our passions in life and how our passions discover us. She discusses the time (the sixties) and the place (Berkeley, California) in which she came of age, the events that shaped her own life, and those she witnessed on stage, canvas, screen, and paper that have influenced her considerable powers of perception and thought.

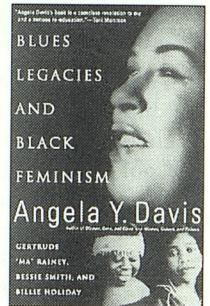
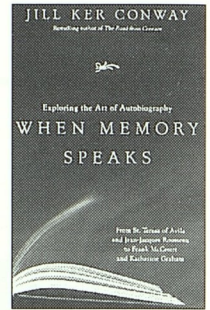
When Memory Speaks Exploring the Art of Autobiography

Jill Ker Conway

Vintage, \$13 pb, 224 pp; 0-679-76645-6

The memoir has been celebrated as our liveliest literary genre and condemned as the confessional mode of a self-obsessed society. In this astute book about the memoir form itself, Jill Ker Conway discusses notable examples of the genre: from St. Teresa of Avila and Jean Jacques Rousseau to Frank McCourt and Katharine Graham.

"Provocative...her insights on the new agency of women who have, at last, begun to tell their stories...are worth savoring." —*The San Diego Union-Tribune*.



Blues Legacies and Black Feminism

Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday

Angela Y. Davis

Vintage, \$15 pb, 464 pp; 0-679-77126-3

"Extraordinary...Davis has given voice to a complex feminist history that might otherwise have eluded history." —*Newsday*.

Angela Y. Davis provides the historical, social, and political contexts with which to reinterpret the performances and lyrics of Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday as the articulation of a Black, working-class feminist consciousness at odds with mainstream American culture.

"Angela Davis's book is a complete revelation to me and a serious re-education." —Toni Morrison

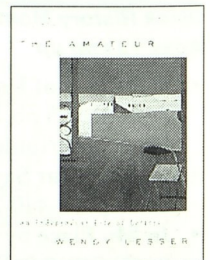
The Amateur

An Independent Life of Letters

Wendy Lesser

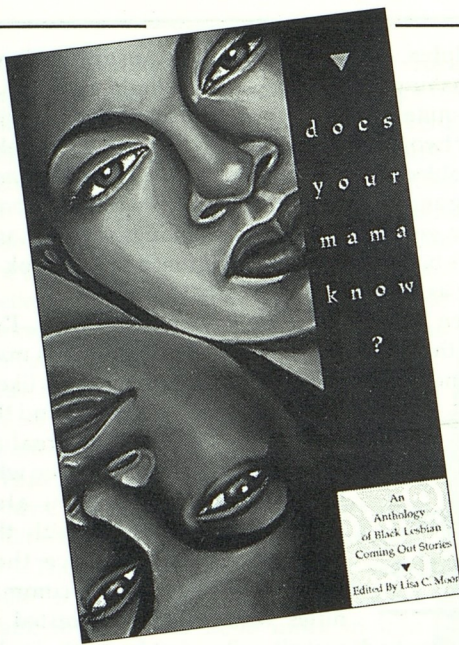
Pantheon, \$24 cl, 288 pp; 0-375-40402-3

In this wonderfully engaging intellectual autobiography, Wendy Lesser, founder of



PUBLISHER SPOTLIGHT:

RedBone Press



By Lisa C. Moore

When I started RedBone Press, I didn't think that's what I was doing. I actually just wanted to get these stories — the stories in *does your mama know? An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories* — out! I'd put out a call for submissions in 1995 after looking for a book like *does your mama know?* and not finding it. I came out in the early 1980s, and I hadn't really read much coming out literature since then. At that time I read books like *The Original Coming Out Stories* edited by Julia Penelope Stanley and Susan J. Wolfe, which is still on my bookshelf. Come to think of it, there are quite a few Persephone Press books — and Diana Press, Crossing Press, Naiad Press — still on my shelf, and I thank the universe for that.

Anyway, I put out a call for submissions, sending it out as a classified ad to nationally distributed publications such as *Sojourner*, *Washington Blade*, *Lesbian Connection*, *BLK Magazine*, *Common Lives*, *Lesbian Lives*, and *Sinister Wisdom*. I gave a deadline of six months from the time of the call. Of course, I should have known that writers are notorious for missing deadlines — I mean, I did it regularly at my editorial assistant job for *HealthQuest Magazine* and at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, where I was a clerk and, later, a copy editor. (That was after graduating with a

degree in journalism in 1995. It was my second bachelor's; I'd gotten one in accounting in 1987.) When the six months were up, I'd only received two submissions, so I renewed the ads and then sent the call to all the women's bookstores in the U.S. — addresses courtesy of the Feminist Bookstore Catalog, which lists them in the back. Those bookstores put the call up on bulletin boards or passed it on to writers they knew; I know because I always asked respondents how they heard about the book. I even got a few email responses; one of the contributors had posted the call on an electronic bulletin board.

My new deadline was one year from the second call, so by the end of a year and a half, I'd gotten quite a few stories, poems, and essays. During that time, I also went through my collection of *Common Lives*, *Lesbian Lives* and *Sinister Wisdom* and tried to contact writers of certain stories so I could reprint them. I also obtained permission to reprint Becky Birtha's and Jewelle Gomez's stories. I received 62 pieces and chose 49 for publication. Then I began the editing process.

Once I actually had all the stories, the project took on a life of its own. I had already begun researching how to publish, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to do it myself or submit the book to another publisher. One character fact/flaw: I'm a control freak (the euphemism is "detail-oriented"). That helped me decide to self-publish, since I wanted to control how the book would look, who'd design the cover, how many copies would get printed, and how it would get marketed and sold.

I hired an artist, Kamela Eaton, who lives in Sacramento, to do the cover. She came recommended by my editor at *HealthQuest Magazine*. I knew the cover had to be striking enough to grab the reader from across the room — or so all the literature says — and once I saw Kamela's work, I knew she could do it.

Kamela and I swapped Fed Exes regularly, she drawing possible cover and spine ideas, me approving a few of them, until we gradually narrowed it down to one image, which is the present-day cover. Neither of us had ever designed a book cover before, and I'd never negotiated for one, so for two neophytes I think we did a really good job.

One day I realized I had all the makings of a book but no money to print it. I'd been working three part-time jobs to pay contributors as I contracted them and to pay Kamela. I found out much later that it's customary to pay "upon publication." (Believe me, every contract since that day has had those specs!) Then, as I was bemoaning my fate to a friend, she announced that she had the money; indeed, she'd been saving it for me, knowing that I really wanted to publish this book myself. Such good friends — with money to lend! — are hard to come by.

Now I had no excuses. The cover design was done, the stories were edited, the contracts were all signed. I contacted a print broker who got quotes for me while I sat at my computer and did the book's layout. Within a month, I had typeset pages and a printer to print them.

Five weeks later, 3000 copies of my first baby were delivered to my kitchen — I mean, inventory storage. From the research I'd done, I knew that books typically need a six-month lead time for publicity, and I didn't have that. So while the book was at the printer, I created color flyers with the book's cover and mailed them to all the women's bookstores, gay bookstores, Black bookstores, and Black lesbian social groups I could find, not to mention every friend I'd ever had. I also sent notices to women's studies departments at universities. Within a week of the books' arrival, I was sending out 100-plus review copies to gay media, women's media, library media, and Black media — but not the mainstream. I knew from working at the newspaper that the mainstream rarely pays attention to a fringe book like mine, so I didn't bother letting them know about it.

Within a month after publication, I'd set up readings at women's and gay bookstores in major cities where the contributors lived: 18 stops in all — including Atlanta, New York, Boston, Chicago, Toronto,

Philadelphia, Detroit, Minneapolis, Austin, Oakland, and Washington, D.C. — in a single summer. I became quite handy at tripping through airports with a case or two of books as carry-on luggage. The book's sales enabled me to pay the monthly travel bills and shipping and handling. Thanks to the word-of-mouth publicity generated, I got lots of single orders, and women's bookstores discovered that a \$19.95 book as singular as mine *sold*, repeatedly.

Since publishing *does your mama know?*, I've learned that the hardest work of publishing is marketing and distribution. Publishing may seem like a lonely activity — just you and the computer — until you realize you've got to get out and see who your readers are. You also develop relationships with the bookstore owners, since they know the women in their communities who will be interested in

**The first print run of
does your mama know?
sold out in eight months.**

RedBone books. It wasn't quite what I expected to be doing as a publisher, but I've since developed a whole other side to my personality: Lisa C. Moore, Director of Publicity.

My sister had worked in a Black bookstore in Florida that fulfilled mail orders, so I quizzed her on shipping. I found companies that deliver boxes and padded mailing bags, packing materials and rolls of packing tape by the dozen. Between my sister's knowledge and my accounting background, I knew I could handle sales and distribution. I bought QuickBooks and used it to keep up with accounting, making sure I printed and included invoices and packing slips when mailing books. From working with the newspaper's book editor, I already knew how the press kits should look, what is required in a press release, and how far in advance calendar editors need it. I used that information to design my own press kit and book readings. Every time the book got reviewed, off to Kinko's I went to make copies to add to my press kit. Whenever I booked a reading, I sent press kits to the gay/lesbian, women's, and Black media and followed up with a press release two weeks prior to the event. The book's contributors really helped by getting me information on what media contacts to target in their cities.

So the summer of 1997 was my whirlwind summer. I was still working part-time at the *Atlanta*

Journal-Constitution, travelling three to four days at a time, and shipping out books when I got back home. Libraries starting sending in orders. I even got a few college textbook orders. Borders and Barnes & Noble sent single-title orders, at the special request of women in places without independent bookstores. (I've been pretty adamant from the beginning that I wanted to focus my marketing efforts to the women's bookstores, since they got me my contributors.) I was still getting individual orders. And the book was reviewed in so many places! Mama Bears' newsletter, Chicago's *Blacklines*, the *Lambda Book Report*, the *Bay Guardian*, *Venus Magazine*, and *Sojourner* among others, not to mention the publicity from online bulletin board recommendations.

The first print run of *does your mama know?* sold out in eight months, so I went back to press for 2000 more in late November 1997. Those sold out in another six months, and now there are 8000 in print.

I guess all the publicity was what helped *does your mama know?* sell so consistently — and get nominated for the Lambda Literary Awards. Actually winning two Lammys — something I never expected; just ask the audience when I got the second award! — helped get me a distributor. Quite a few bookstores had refused to do business with me until I'd gotten a distributor, but I was reluctant for at least two reasons: Distributors take a huge (to me) percentage, and I felt they didn't know my market as well as I did. (Remember, I'm a control freak.) But after winning the Lammys, I met with Nancy Bereano of Firebrand, who gave me valuable information about distributors and directed me to LPC Group, who I'm with now. And I've learned that I can still market to my audience, develop new audiences, and work hand-in-hand with my distributor. It doesn't all rest on my shoulders anymore, which is quite a change. After the flurry of last summer, not talking to bookstore owners every day is different. Sometimes I feel like I don't know what's going on in the world while waiting for a sales report, but I know it's part of working as a team.

So, the RedBone Press story. The new book, *the bull-jean stories* by Sharon Bridgforth, came out in

October. The first print run was 2000. It's been excerpted in *Girlfriends Magazine* and nominated by the American Library Association for the Gay/Lesbian Book Award. As of this writing, there have been readings in Austin, Atlanta, and New York.

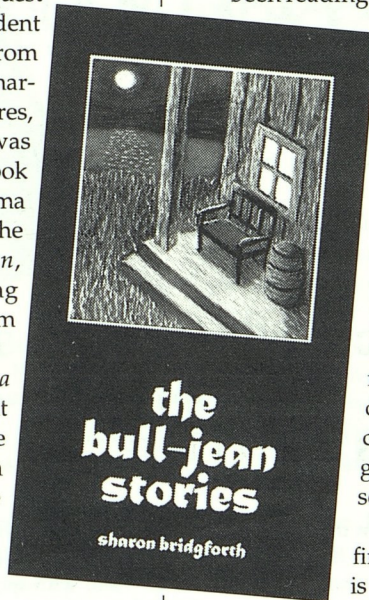
The book tour revs up again in January, when we go to New Orleans, then Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, and Minneapolis. In the spring, Sharon will perform in Detroit, on the West Coast, and in the South. Sharon is well-known in theater circles, so we're tagging book readings/signings with performances and workshops. Sharon also actively publicizes her work; we check with each other to coordinate and make sure we don't duplicate efforts. What money comes in from *does your mama know?* goes back into publicity, and to my second child, *bull-jean*.

But I haven't forgotten about my firstborn. The next wave of marketing is academia: libraries and universities. With all the free time I have on my

hands (*ha!*), I can concentrate on researching those markets, along with going to graduate school and sending Sharon out on tour with *bull-jean*. (I'll be traveling with her for some events to see how the response is.)

What have I learned? That there is a market for Black lesbian writing, that a distributor does indeed help, that small print runs are good, that there's nothing like a well-publicized reading to sell books, that women's bookstores stick together, ...that y'all like me, you really like me! (I still can't believe I said that at the awards dinner!)

And that I *love* this business, so I guess I've been bitten by the bug. RedBone Press is committed to publishing one book per year — unless a fairy godmother comes along to subsidize. Until then, operations are still on a small scale — though my computer has a room of its own in my house now, instead of a place next to the bed. But the smell of fresh ink still gets my adrenaline pumping, and the incredible response from readers, booksellers, and other publishers lets me know my work is worthwhile. Y'all really do like me! ○



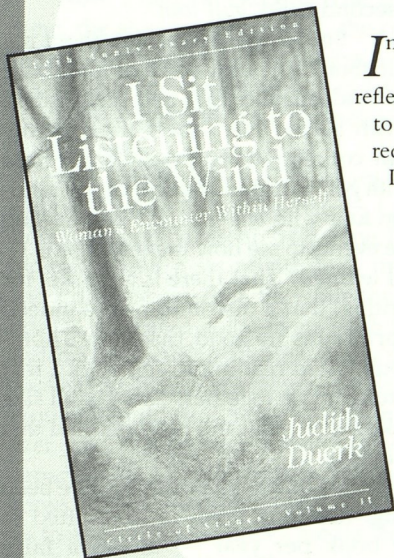
Thank You, Booksellers, for 10 Magic Years

ANNOUNCING THE
10th Anniversary Editions of
Judith Duerk's Classics

CIRCLE OF STONES

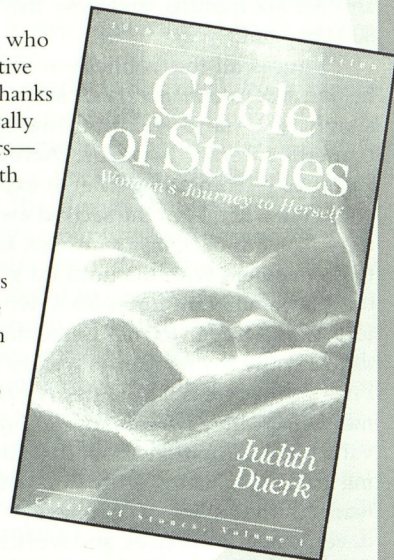
and Its Companion Volume

I SIT LISTENING TO THE WIND



In tribute to the more than 200,000 women who have been drawn to Judith Duerk's evocative reflections and meditations—and with special thanks to you, the booksellers who have enthusiastically recommended these classics to your customers—Innisfree Press is proud to announce the 10th anniversary editions of *THE CIRCLE OF STONES SERIES*.

For the first time, Judith Duerk's readers will have a chance to respond to the words that have moved them so deeply. An invitation is being issued for submissions for *THE CIRCLE CONTINUES* anthology to be printed in the year 2000. Promotion kits with posters and submission forms will be sent to members of the Feminist Bookstore Network in January. Bookstores outside of the network please call us for your kit!



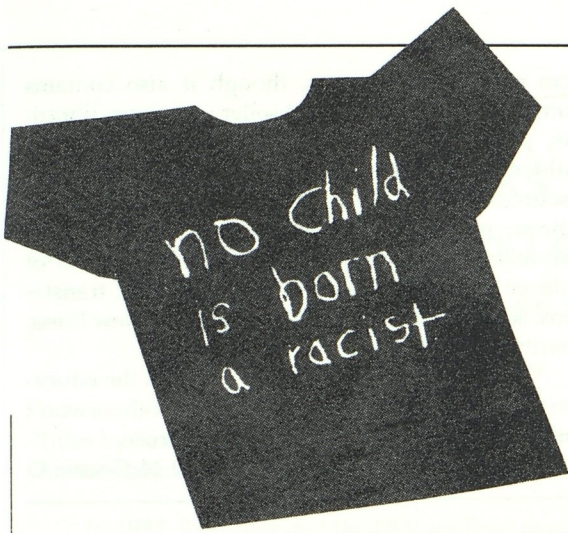
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Short Raves

Noted herstoryian Sally Roesch Wagner has two new titles out from Sky Carrier Press. Both books deal with 19th-century feminist, Matilda Joslyn Gage. Gage, who lived in Central New York state, was instrumental in the women's rights movement of the day.

Matilda Joslyn Gage: She Who Holds the Sky by Sally Roesch Wagner, an 80-page booklet, is the only biography of Gage available. She grew up in an abolitionist household and circulated anti-slavery petitions as a child; this created a woman of powerful convictions. Although Elizabeth Cady Stanton is often credited with being the guiding force behind the movement, Gage was, by far, the more involved. Adopted into the wolf clan of the Mohawks in 1893, she continued writing and rabble-rousing until her death in 1898. Carved on her tombstone is the following: "There is a word sweeter than Mother, Home or Heaven. That word is Liberty." If you have a solid biography section, this book belongs there. It provides important information missing in many other books about the era. \$12.95 pb, 1-880589-31-1, Sky Carrier Press.

Woman, Church, and State by Matilda Joslyn Gage, edited with an afterword and bibliography by Sally Roesch Wagner. The back cover says it all: "Censored 100 years ago by the religious right and the increasingly conservative women's suffrage movement, this 1893 pioneering study of the suppression of women by church and state becomes newly accessible in a special anniversary edition...." As we

T-shirt available from Northern Sun (800-258-8579)

continue to discover our women's herstory, this is an important text to add to our collections. \$20 pb, 1-880589-27-3, Sky Carrier Press.

Sky Carrier Press, PO Box 2135, Aberdeen SD 57402; 605-486-4310, email (swagner711@aol.com). 40% discount on all bookstore orders, no minimum. Discount shipping and handling, return policy negotiable. Call or write for details.

—Mary Ellen Kavanaugh/*My Sisters' Words*

The New Press Guide to Multicultural Resources for Young Readers edited by Daphne Muse is quite simply a must-have for every bookstore that is serious about stocking and selling children's books, and certainly for all libraries. I'd suggest two copies for stores: one for your reference, and one for sale. You might want to use your store copy as the display copy; a book this big and heavy — and inherently browsable — is going to get shop-worn, and at \$60 your customers are likely to want a book that looks new. And let me address the price, as I imagine this could be a deterrent to some to stocking the book: For all the valuable information contained here, in such an attractive and accessible format, \$60 is cheap. Really.

The New Press Guide to Multicultural Resources for Young Readers includes over 1000 critical and detailed reviews — including synopses, suggestions for classroom use, and assessments of key elements such as cultural sensitivity of text and illustrations — of a vast range of picture books, biographies, poetry, anthologies, folktales, and young adult novels. 690 two-column pages! If this sounds like a dense tome for the educational market only*, though, just open the book to any page: The titles jump out at you, along with a few sentences

summarizing each book (which appear as pull-quotes) and thumbnail photos of the book jackets. I was drawn in immediately, skipping back and forth between sections. I'd picked up the book for a quick glance, and when I next lifted my eyes from the pages I found that 45 minutes had passed.

The reviews are organized by theme, and then grouped by grade level: K-3, 4-6, 7-8. Themes include: Cultural Identity; Justice, Human Rights, Equity; Community/Friendship; Cultural Traditions and Ethnic Stereotyping; and Building Cross-Cultural Relationships. The guide reviews books on more than 20 ethnic, disabled, gay and lesbian, and multiracial themes. The books are mostly

from mainstream presses, though it also contains many small press titles. Booksellers, teachers, librarians, parents, and others interested in inclusive children's literature can also make use of the resources listed in the back: catalogs; media; organizations; magazines, newspapers and periodicals; storytelling organizations and resources; books of children's literature; and sources for book translations. \$60 cl, 1-56584-339-8, 690 pages, The New Press. Distributed by Norton.

*The primary market for this book is the educational market, but that doesn't mean that others won't find it fascinating, useful, and fun to peruse.

—Lisa McGowan ○

SUBVERSIVES ON STAGE

Behind the Burnt Cork Mask

*Early Blackface Minstrelsy and
Antebellum American Popular Culture*

WILLIAM J. MAHAR

Blackface performers helped shape images of race, gender, and class in antebellum America. Through the songs, dances, jokes, parodies, spoofs, and skits, white performers satirized majority values without directly attacking them. The burnt cork masked these entertainers, shielding them from any personal identification with their material. An illuminating and timely addition to the national discussion on race and racial stereotypes.

A volume in the series Music in American Life

Illus. Cloth, \$60.00; Paper, \$24.95

Harry Ransom Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Pistol Packin' Mama

*Aunt Molly Jackson and the
Politics of Folksong*

SHELLY ROMALIS

Aunt Molly Jackson grew up a coal miner's daughter in eastern Kentucky to become a folklore legend. A labor activist, Molly wrote songs that fused hard experience with rich Appalachian musical traditions. In 1931, at age fifty, Molly was "discovered" and brought north, where she joined an illustrious circle of left-wing intellectuals and musicians. Her compelling story shows how the rural working poor became linked to big-city left-wing activism during the Great Depression.

A volume in the series Music in American Life

Illus. Cloth, \$39.95; Paper, \$18.95

Photo courtesy of Archie Green

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More Books for the African American Lesbian Section

NEW TITLES FOR 1998

Titles by Sara Look of Charis Books, Atlanta GA;
Annotations by Teri Mae Rutledge and FBN

In 1997, Sara Look and the FBN staff put together the inaugural "African American Lesbian Section" article. It was, unarguably, one of the best articles we ever published. People still ask us for it.

Our neverending drive to be current has led us to update the list with 17 new titles. Again, we enlisted the help of Sara Look of Charis Books, who, once again, has brought forth an amazing list of great literature.

Seventeen books. For an article, it's a fine number of books. But 17 books with African American lesbian themes published in a whole year is precious few. And (Alice Walker notwithstanding) many of these books are not so easy to find. I doubt Barnes and Noble stocked Love Like Gumbo for more than a week. And how many would have made it into print at all if women's and African American stores didn't stock and promote them?

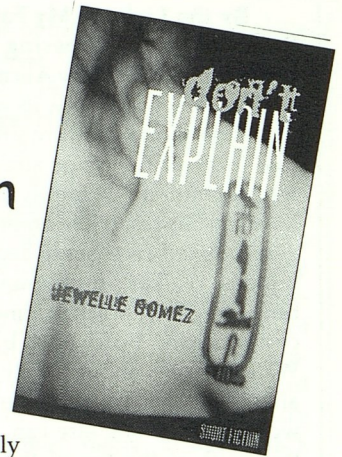
Don't Explain: Short Fiction by Jewelle Gomez, the Lambda Award-winning author of *The Gilda Stories*, demonstrates a wide literary range in this new collection. In her lush, sensuous voice Gomez explores racial, class, and generational boundaries in relationships, as well as exploring child abuse and the hunger for love and connection. Fans will be happy to know that this collection includes a new Gilda story. \$10.95 pb, 1-5634109-4-X, Firebrand. Available from LPC.

The Fae Richards Photo Archive by Zoe Leonard, photographer, and Cheryl Dunye, filmmaker, is a book you must be "in the know" to fully appreciate. Fae Richards is the "Watermelon Woman," the (fictional) Black movie actor in Cheryl Dunye's video of the same name. How can an invented, fictional character have a

photo archive? Don't let details like that stand in your way. It is a lovely little book — all the more poignant for the fact that it's 100% pure fiction. \$15 cl, 0-963109-58-8, Artspace. Available from Koen.

Considering Venus by D. Gisele Isaac is the story of Cassandra and Lesley, high school friends that meet again after 25 years. Lesley is African American, a recent widow, and the mother of three children. She looks to her old friend Cassandra to be her confidante. Cassandra is Antiguan and gay, and she finds herself falling in love with Lesley. When Cassandra confesses her feelings, Lesley flees; she needs to battle her own prejudices against lesbians, as well as the reaction that her family will surely have. But Lesley realizes that she does love Cassandra, and she returns to her. The plot is deceptively simple; this love story frames some very ambitious themes. It explores the intersection of love and sexual and racial identity in two very real women. I like Isaac's examination of the line between friendship and sexuality in women's relationships, and I like that it is a book about a relationship between women of color. These characters have complex lives that aren't at the poles of any socio-political spectrum — they are women who, ultimately, invent the ways in which they love each other. \$9.95 pb, 1-885778-42-2, Seaburn Publishers. Available from Koen.

Juba by Letta Neely is a collection of poetry by the twice-National Queer Poetry Slam Champion. Her poetry, at once spiritual and political, erotic and enraged, proves that Neely is an important voice from a new generation of Black lesbian writers. \$12 pb, 0-966309-72-3, Wildheart Press, PO Box 1115, Jamaica Plain MA 02130; 617-265-4555.

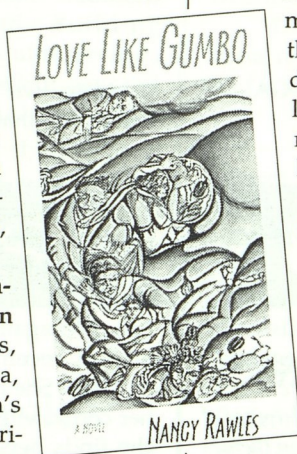


By the Light of My Father's Smile: A Story of Requited Love, Crossing Over, and the Sexual Healing of the Soul by Alice Walker is, as she says, "a celebration of sexuality, its absolute usefulness in the accessing of one's mature spirituality, and the father's role in assuring joy or sorrow in this arena for his female children." A family from the U.S. moves to the Mexican Sierras to live among the Mundo, an endangered mixed-race band descended from Blacks and Indians. Walker's prose moves back and forth across time, across characters, and across convention. Bold and brilliant, Walker writes about family, spirituality, social justice, and love between women as no one else can. Look for this book at the top of the charts in women's bookstores — and everywhere else. \$22.95 cl, 0-375-50152-5, Random House.

Má-ka: Diasporic Juks, Contemporary Writing by Queers of African Descent edited by Debbi Douglas, Courtney McFarlene, Makeda Silvera, and Douglas Stewart is Sister Vision's classic anthology exploring the experiences of lesbians and gay men of African descent. Includes prose and poetry by both new and established authors from the U.S., Canada, Britain, Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa. These writers tackle the issues of living with many shifting identities: social, political, and sexual. At times erotic, at others political, it's an important gathering of writers and of literary conversation. Like all Sister Vision titles, it's a wonderful, thick, lovely book, with every bit as much care put in the design as into the work itself. \$17.95 pb, 1-896705-14-6, Sister Vision Press. Distributed by the University of Toronto Press.

Bessie Smith by Jackie Kay takes us through the life and times of one of the greatest blues singers who ever lived. Writing as a part of Absolute Press' Outlines series, which explores and portrays the ways in which homosexuality has informed the life and work of lesbian and gay artists, Kay mixes fact and fiction, poetry and prose in her portrait of Smith. Kay's prose is gorgeous, full, and rich. From the book: "Picture her: 1921, 1922, bigger now, older now, wearing fancy clothes. She's made big money; she's drunk bootleg;

she's had sex with women and men. But the little girl's face is still just behind the woman's. Pentimento. When she gets up to shout the blues, to barrelhouse, to transform her audience, part of her is standing on Ninth Street under a moody sky.... When Bessie sings in these clubs with the audience literally spellbound, captivated, totally enthralled, she is not really paying them any attention.... Sometimes she's sure she saw her sister Tinnie right in the middle of that sea of faces.... Once she even saw her dead mother standing for a single moment behind the bar. After singing the blues, she knocks down one drink, then another, full of a terrible longing for herself, for her family, for Chattanooga. The whole theatre is full of a restless longing. She gets people that way. She is right under their skin. She is closer than God." \$9.95 pb, 1-899791-70-1, Absolute Press. Distributed by Stewart, Tabori, and Chang.



Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday by Angela Y. Davis explores the lives of these three jazz singers. Davis postulates that these artists achieved an aesthetic dominance over the music industry and a sort of "proto-feminist" consciousness within working-class Black communities. As popular icons, they were extraordinary in that they celebrated non-wealthy, non-white, and non-heterosexual social, moral, and sexual values. "The artists addressed radical subjects such as physical and economic abuse, race relations, and female sexual power, including lesbianism. Ma Rainey was well-known as a lover of women as well as men, and her song 'Prove It on Me' describes a butch woman who dresses like a man and dates women. **Blues Legacies and Black Feminism** places the fluid sexuality of these women within a larger context of African American artists' attempts to subvert and recreate America." —*Lesbian Studies*. Davis transcribed all of Rainey and Smith's lyrics — they alone are worth the price of the book. \$27.50 cl, 0-679-45005-X, Pantheon.

Angela Y. Davis Reader edited by Joy James is a collection of 18 interviews, essays, and excerpts from Davis' work (including her memoir), spanning over 30 years. Davis writes about feminism, anti-racism, political philosophy, and liberation theory. James divides Davis' writing into four parts: "Prisons,

Repression and Resistance," "Marxism, Anti-Racism and Feminism," "Aesthetics and Culture," and "Interviews." It's an awesome collection of work from the famous scholar and activist. \$24.95 pb, 0-631203-61-3, Blackwell.

The Store of a Million Items by Michelle Cliff is a collection of short stories that demonstrates Cliff's economical, charged style. Here, Cliff confronts dualities in complicated mores: Black and white, colonialism and revolution, America and the "Third World," femininity and masculinity. Cliff's writing almost physically drags you out of your own world and into hers. Her stories are urgent, stark, and self-important in the very best way — while you're reading, it's hard to believe that anything else but her

voice exists. Reading one of her stories is like having an espresso — very intense, very short, very addictive. \$12 pb, 0-395-90129-4, Houghton Mifflin.

The Truth That Never Hurts: Collected Writing, 1968–1998 by Barbara Smith collects the impassioned writing of the radical, lesbian, African American, and feminist writer, scholar, publisher, and editor. She's a wonderfully impressive figure in world of women's letters. She is responsible for bringing into print many vitally important voices, in addition to her own scholarship. Smith co-founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. Her literary criticism lambasts the academic establishment for misinterpreting and disregarding the voices of Black women, particularly Black lesbians; she chastises many straight Black

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The Revenge of Maria by Makeda Silvera

Set in North America and Jamaica, *The Revenge of Maria* is a multi-layered story about the death of an unconquerable matriarch and the generations of women who must release themselves from her influential and indomitable spirit. Poignant and unforgettable, Makeda Silvera's first novel is a breathtaking journey into family loyalties, betrayal and the haunting power of memory.



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women involved in the African American women's literary renaissance who completely ignore the existence of Black lesbians, and, indeed, are openly hostile to them. Smith also identifies a lack of nonfiction writing by African American women. In all, this collection underscores Smith's role as an impassioned thinker and activist. \$23 cl, 0-8135-2573-X, Rutgers University Press.

bull-jean stories by Sharon Bridgforth isn't a book that you read, it's a book that you *hear*. Bridgforth's debut work is a combination of poetry/monologue from the point of view of bull-dog-jean. From the book: "na/i's a wo'mn/what's Lovved many wy'mns./me/they call bull-dog-jean i say/tha'ts cause i works lik somekinda ole dog trying to git a bone or two/they say it's cause i be sniffing after wy'mns/down-low/begging and thangs//whatever." The language in **bull-jean stories** is sweet and intense, as are the thoughts and exploits of bull-dog-jean. Every passage sings, and (trust me) I'm showing great restraint by only quoting one stanza. This book gets my unqualified recommendation and also a suggestion: if you can get Austin performance artist Bridgforth to your town for a reading, do it. You won't be disappointed. \$12 pb, 0-9656659-1-7, Redbone Press. Distributed by LPC.

Where to Choose by Penny Mickelbury is a new Carol Ann Gibson mystery from the Lambda Award-winning author of *One Must Wait* (Simon & Schuster), *Keeping Secrets* and *Night Songs* (both published by Naiad). One of the finest trial lawyers in DC, Carol Ann is still trying to pull herself together after her husband's death; she hasn't stepped into a courtroom in over a year. A distraction from her grief comes in the form of a cry for help: a friend of her mother is attacked in Carol Ann's childhood home in West L.A. Once there, Carol Ann realizes that her hometown is under siege, and no one seems to know where the trouble is coming from — nor does anyone (including the police) seem eager to do anything about it. Carol Ann begins to investigate and soon becomes a target of the city's violence. \$22 cl, 0-684-83742-0, February, Simon and Schuster.

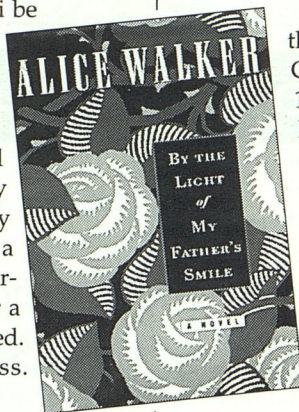
Keep an eye out this Fall for the release of **Sabras** by Catherine McKinley, the editor of *Afrekete*:

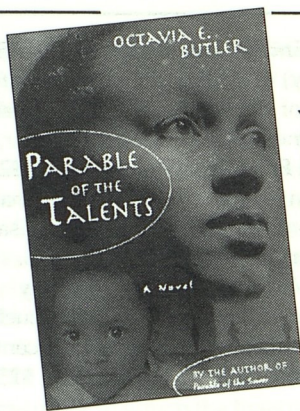
Anthology of Contemporary Black Lesbian Writing. **Sabras** is McKinley's memoir about her transracial adoption and her search for her birth parents. Price not available. 0-688-15926-5, Fall, William Morrow.

Set in North America and Jamaica, **The Revenge of Maria** by Makeda Silvera is a novel about family loyalties, betrayal, and the haunting power of memory. Silvera, one of the founders of Sister Vision Press (and an editor of *Má-ka*, above) writes a complex narrative which operates on many levels. Maria is an unconquerable matriarch. When she dies, generations of women must try to free themselves from her spirit. A rich, gorgeous novel from a gifted writer, publisher, and editor. \$12.95 pb, 0-889740-84-4, Press Gang.

Love Like Gumbo by Nancy Rawles is the story of Grace Broussard, a 20-year-old Creole lesbian living with her family in 1970s L.A. In order to begin her life with her Mexican girlfriend, Elena, Grace decides that she must leave her family, a feat much easier said than done. Grace draws up a ten-point plan for achieving her flight/disownment, at the center of which is the refusal of her mother's gumbo. (Other points involve dressing Elena in a red dress and bringing her to dinner, refusing to attend Mass, and "ruining" her hair by picking it out in an umbrella shape.) As the narrative flows and points fail or are thwarted by Broussard's dead and alive, Grace comes to a deeper understanding of who she is and what it means to be "a Broussard." A thoroughly satisfying read. (And the descriptions of gumbo are *positively* mouth-watering. It made me long for New Orleans.) \$14 pb, Fjord Press, 0-940242-75-3.

If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson is a new young adult novel. Woodson tells the story of a straight teenage couple: Miah, a Black boy, and Ellie, a Jewish girl. As the pair tackles racism from everyone, from strange white women in Central Park to Ellie's lesbian sister, they confront their own feelings about their racial identities. Ellie is planning to bring Miah home to meet her parents when the narrative turns to its violent, devastating climax — a climax that, given the clues in the narrative, was perhaps not surprising. \$15.99 cl, 0-399-23112-9, Penguin. ○





Booksellers Recommend...

Compiled by Teri Mae Rutledge

An incredible number of African American and women's bookstores responded to our call for "bookseller recommendations" for Black History Month and/or Women's History Month. The lists are as unique as the stores they came from. Some lists focus on one month or the other, some on both. Some of the books are core titles for Black or women's history sections, some are personal favorites. Some are bestsellers and others are from way off the mainstream track. Think of these lists as a dozen secret family recipes for strong sales.

Our thanks to all of the booksellers who, at a *very* busy time of year, took the time and the care to contribute to this collaborative effort.

Antigone Books

Tucson AZ
By Trudy Mills

Women's History Month

History books are not usually the hottest sellers in our store, so we love the fact that March gives us an excuse to highlight this area. It's a great time to create fun displays, especially since the National Women's History Project makes it so easy. Their catalog is a great give-away item (always an attention getter!) and the balloons, buttons, etc., make for a great display. If you haven't ordered from them before, their number is 707-838-6000.

There are a lot of fun women's history books out right now. Conari publishes a great series of books.

They are small, gift-sized books — very appealing. **Uppity Women of Medieval Times** by Vicki Leon (\$14.95 pb, 1-57324-0397, Conari) includes very readable descriptions of "200 daring damsels who dazzled the Dark Ages and rocked the Renaissance." In a similar vein is **Uppity Women of Ancient Times** (\$14.95 pb, 1-57324-0109, Conari). **Hell's Belles** by Seale Ballinger (\$14.95 pb, 1-57324-0966, Conari) is a "tribute to spitfires, bad seeds and steel magnolias in the new and old South." And **Drama Queens** (\$15.95 pb, 1-57324-1369, Conari) by Autumn Stephens looks at wild women of the silver screen. Another very accessible history title is **What Every American Should Know about Women's History** by Christine Lunardini (\$10.95 pb, 1-55850-687-X, Adams), which includes 200 events that "shaped our destiny."

A more in-depth but still quite accessible introduction to U.S. women's history is **A History of Women in America** by Carol Hymowitz and Michaela Weissman (\$14.95 pb, 0-553-26914-3, Bantam). **Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History** edited by Vicki Ruiz and Ellen DuBois (\$29.95 pb, 0-415-90892-2, Routledge) is a more scholarly text; but, importantly, it is more focused on the diversity of our history, including important work on Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinas, working-class women, and lesbians. In a similar vein, **The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History** edited by Wilma Mankiller, Gwendolyn Mink, Marysa Navarro, Barbara Smith, and Gloria Steinem (\$45 cl, 0-395-67173-6, Houghton Mifflin) is an extraordinary and important collection. Coming in paper in time for Women's History and Black History Month is a very important book, **Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America** by Darlene


Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson (\$14 pb, 0-7679-0111-8, Broadway). For customers interested in Western European history, **The Prospect Before Her** by Olwen Hufton (\$18 pb, 0-679-76818-1, Random House) is an impressive historical tapestry, and **Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the U.S. in the 20th Century** by Shelia Rowbotham (\$16.95 pb, 0-14-023282-6, Penguin) is an important book.

Comprehensive reference books are vital to a history section, but my favorites tend to be books that explore a topic or group of people in-depth and biographies that help history come alive. Here are some recommendations:

NEW FROM ALYSON

These fascinating life stories read like novellas, introducing us to worlds that would soon have been lost to us.

—Noel Riley Fitch, author of *Appetite for Life: The Biography of Julia Child*



An unforgettable oral history of the daring pioneers who paved the way for gay liberation

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Sisters of the Wind by Elizabeth Bell (\$14.95 pb, 0-9623879-40, Trilogy) is an inspiring study of the writings of a group of daring American and British aviation pioneers. And before taking to the air, we had sailors, and **Hen Frigates** by Joan Druett (\$25 cl, 0-684-83968-7, Simon & Schuster) is a fascinating account of the joys and perils of women who sailed with their 19th-century ship-captain husbands.

Medicine Women: The Story of Early-American Women Doctors by Cathy Luchetti is a beautiful book with excerpts from 19th-century women's diaries and 150 photographs. \$25 cl, 0-517-598485, Crown.

Pioneer Women: The Lives of Women on the Frontier by Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith (\$17.95 pb, 0-8061-3054-7, University of Oklahoma Press) contains ongoing commentary and wonderful photographs. And one of my favorite books about pioneer women is Lillian Schlissel's **Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey** (\$14 pb, 0-8052-10040, Shocken).

Sisters in Arms by Jo Ann Kay McNamara is the first definitive history of Catholic nuns in the Western world. \$18.95 pb, 0-674-8095-8, Harvard.

Nike is a Goddess by Lissa Smith is a wonderful look at the history of women in sports. \$24 cl, 0-87113-726-7, Atlantic Monthly Press.

Hatchepsut: Female Pharaoh by Joyce Tyldesley is an absorbing and scholarly biography of this Egyptian pharaoh. \$14.95 pb, 0-14-024464-6, Penguin.

Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol by Nell Irvin Painter is "first-rate history that peels away the myths and legends so we might get at a history of Sojourner Truth." \$14.95 pb, 0-393-31708-0, Norton.

Other Powers by Barbara Goldsmith is an excellent read about "the age of suffrage, spiritualism, and the scandalous Victoria Woodhull." It is due in paper from HarperCollins in April. \$16 pb, 0-06-095332-2.

Transgender Warriors by Leslie Feinberg is a history of transgendered people from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman. \$17 pb, 0-8070-7941-3, Beacon.

Trials of Maria Barbella by Idanna Pucci looks at the 1895 trial of Maria Barbella, an immigrant woman on trial for killing a man who raped her. A fascinating trial and a great history of that time period. \$13 pb, 0-679-77604-4, Vintage.

Those who have read Blanche Wiesen Cook's **Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume I, 1884-1933** have been

not-so-patiently waiting for **Volume II**, and it looks like it's finally coming from Viking in April. \$34.95 cl, 0-14-009460-1.

Finally, a wonderful way to introduce people to women's history is through novels that take history seriously. Some recommendations:

Secret Book of Grazia dei Rossi by Jacqueline Parks is a fascinating look at a Jewish woman during the Renaissance. \$13 pb, 0-684-84840-6, Scribner.

Gone to Soldiers by Marge Piercy (\$6.99 pb, 0-440-21557-1 Fawcett) is a page-turner in which the lives of six women and four men intersect in a feminist look at World War II. Piercy also tackles the French Revolution in **City of Darkness, City of Light** (\$12 pb, 0-449-912752, Fawcett).

A Killing in New Town by Kate Horsley is a story (part mystery, part adventure) that takes place in a boomtown in the Southwest in the late 1880s. Horsley's depiction of this time period is wonderful and disturbing. \$14 pb, 0-963-190962, La Alameda Press.

Black Book Worm

Ft. Worth TX

By Sonia Williams-Babers

Black History/Women's History Months

The Wake of the Wind by J. California Cooper. Ms. Cooper has a unique knack for giving "full life" to her characters. Each time I read her works, I get intimately acquainted with her people — the good ones and the bad ones. In her latest book, which has already made Blackboard Bestsellers List, she provides an compassionate look into the lives of African Americans immediately after slavery and the beginning of Reconstruction. You can get so caught up in the book that you feel that you're right on the freedom road with the family as they try to establish themselves as full and equal citizens of a country — a country that African Americans helped to build. \$22.95 cl, 0-385-48704-5, Doubleday.

Just Plain Folks by Lorraine Johnson-Coleman. This is a wonderful collection of heartwarming short stories and essays from the "Southern point of view."

If you've never visited rural Black America, read this for the trip of a lifetime. \$22 cl, 0-316-46084-2, Little, Brown.

Africans in America: America's Journey through Slavery by Charles Johnson, Patricia Smith, and the WGBH Series Research Team. If you missed the original PBS presentation in October, now is the opportunity to own the book, which goes into further

details on how Africans helped build this nation. It covers the period from the initial landing at Jamestown through the late 1800s. A must for every personal home library. \$30 cl, 0-15-100339-4, Harcourt Brace.

How to Kill Your Willie Lynch by Lawanda Staten. In 1712 a slave owner from the West Indies named Willie Lynch gave a speech that consisted of a plan to control the slaves in the colony of Virginia. Ms. Staten, a resident of California, provides a thought-provoking look into the experience of African Americans and other ethnic groups who must deal with "modern day Willie Lynchs." \$11 pb, 0-9664722-0-9, self-published.

StyleNoir by Constance C.R. White. This is the first "how-to" fashion guide written with Black women in mind. It is long overdue! Includes a history of Blacks' contribution to fashion. Chapters worth reading twice are "Dressing for the Job," "African-Inspired Accessories," and "The General Basis of Style." \$15 pb, 0-399-52379-0, Berkely Publishing Group.

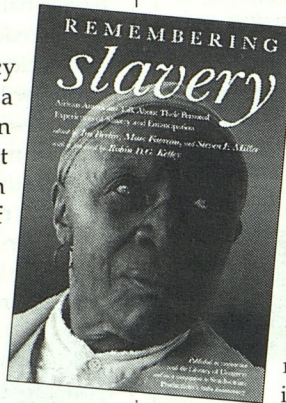
Black Images Book Bazaar

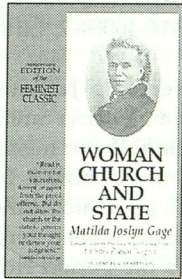
Dallas TX

By Emma Rodgers, co-owner of Black Images

Black History/Women's History Months

Beloved by Toni Morrison provides an opportunity for you to know the depths of what it meant, physically and psychologically, to be a slave. She explores the pain of being collared in iron, having an iron bit placed in your mouth and manacles around your wrists, caring for swollen and split feet, and being sexually violated. Sethe, mother of four children, decides that it is better for her children to





WOMAN, CHURCH AND STATE
Matilda Joslyn Gage

edited by Sally Roesch Wagner
\$20.00, ISBN: 1-880589-27-3

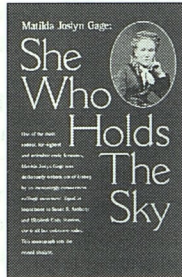
"This [1893] book...is a classic. Readers will find that the questions she raised and the arguments she puts forth...are still central to the feminist search for values and meaning."
— Andrea Dworkin

MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE:
She Who Holds The Sky

Sally Roesch Wagner
\$12.95, ISBN: 1-880589-31-1

Part of the suffrage "triumvirate" with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Gage's theory formed the foundation for much of the woman's rights cause. More radical than the other two women, Gage was deliberately written-out of history, as this monograph documents. You will never quite see Susan B. Anthony the same again after reading it.

The full extent of the treachery...has not yet been fathomed and maybe never will — Matilda Joslyn Gage



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remain free at any cost than return to the horrors of slavery. This decision is a personal sacrifice that haunts her forever. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28062-1, Plume.

The Black and White of It by Ann Allen Shockly offers readers several examples of what outing was like "back in the day." This collection of short stories has several scenarios of women loving women intimately, be they politicians, teachers, married, single, separated, or beloved. She also explores racism in the lesbian community and dating across color and age lines. \$7.95 pb, 0-930044-96-7, Naiad Press.

Inner City Blues by Paula Woods is a new mystery set in Los Angeles with heroine, Charlotte Justice, who fights the negative perception that "all the Black males are guilty and all the women are incompetent."

Police violence, corruption, and greed continue to haunt the LAPD. Our heroine, her female police partner, and her family are not only committed to solving the murders, but are also committed to community and justice. \$23.95 cl, 0-393-04680-X, Norton.

In **Miss Ophelia** by Mary Burnett Smith, eleven-year-old Belly's summer is getting off to a terrible start when her best friend, Teeny, is shipped off to have a baby. Belly's passion for reading will quell her boredom with staying home for the summer, so she decides to go away for the summer to help her strong-willed Aunt Rachel recover from surgery. The piano lessons from Miss Ophelia, her aunt's neighbor and her mother's childhood friend, adds enjoyment to Belly's summer. \$13 pb, 0-688-16357-2, Quill.

You need at least two different-color highlighters and a pen to embark on the journey to improve your emotional and spiritual health that Iyania Vanzant outlines in **One Day My Soul Just Opened Up: Forty Days and Forty Nights to Spiritual Growth**. Vanzant guides you through readings and exercises to help you tap the inner self and change your behavior. Now, don't think you have to accomplish this feat in 40 days and 40 nights. It may take you 40 days *per principle* or longer. Just work at your own pace, but most importantly, get on the journey. \$13 pb, 0-684-84134-7, Simon & Schuster.

Friends since school, four women with a range of careers and a range of opportunities and challenges continue their bond into maturity in **Pride** by Lorene Cary. Adoption, abortion, alcoholism, tenure, betrayal, politics, education, and responsibility are issues intertwined into this many-layered novel. \$23.95 cl, 0-385-48131-4, Doubleday.

Sally Hemings by Barbara Chase-Riboud is a romanticized version of the sexual relationship between slave master, Thomas Jefferson, and his slave, Sally Hemings. The Father of the Declaration of Independence travels the world with his entourage, which includes a slave girl, Hemings. Sally's options are limited and she must submit totally to Jefferson, bearing him several children who are raised as slaves in the Monticello Estate. Her brother, on the other hand, refuses to participate in the slave culture and will not be used as a stud to help build his master's coffers. He takes advantage of his foreign assignment and remains free in Paris while Sally lobbies for her children's freedom. \$12 pb, 0-345-38971-9, Ballantine.

Somebody Else's Child by Terris McMahan Grimes is a hilarious mystery featuring corporate professional-turned-sleuth, Theresa Calloway. She unwittingly becomes a gumshoe at the behest of her mother. Calloway has to neglect responsibilities at home and the office to solve murders in the old neighborhood. \$4.99 pb, 0-451-18672-9, Signet.

Stigmata by Phyllis Alesia Perry is the story of Lizzie DuBose, who has inherited her grandmother's handmade quilt — a quilt that opens windows to the souls of those who came before her. Lizzie's secure world begins to unravel as she slips back and forth between the present and distant past to make sense out of reality. This work reminds me of Toni Cade Bambara's *The Salt Eaters*. \$21.95 cl, 0-7868-6408-7, Hyperion.

The discovery of self is at the center of **Sula** by Toni Morrison. Once Sula Peace discovers her being, she is comfortable in constructing her world and handling all consequences. She is also capable of destroying all obstructions that prevent her from reaching her apex. Sula knows that she is responsible for her happiness or lack thereof. Her childhood friend, Nel Wright, on the other hand, is dependent on those outside the self to add value and meaning to her life. Sula explains to Nel, "My loneliness is mine." What power for a woman growing up in the 20s, 30s, and 40s. \$11.95 pb, 0-452-26349-2, Berkley Publishing Group.

In **The Wake of the Wind** J. California Cooper provides a saga of what life was like for slaves after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, although it took two years and five months more for the Texas Negroes to be freed. Lifee and Mor methodically and painstakingly plan for their family's survival as they walk to a better life. The couple form strategic and family alliances with other free men and women and whites to help protect their property and family. \$23 cl, 0-385-48704-5, Doubleday.

A female writer presents a male voice and nuances in **When All Hell Breaks Loose** by Comic Spencer, a novel for the twenty-something audience. Gregory Aston has three very independent women in his life: Adrian, his soon-to-be fiancé, operates a top-of-the-line hair salon; his sister, Shreese, has a lit-

tle too much religion to suit him; and his mother, Louise, gave up her family to explore her singing career in France. Gregory discovers that relationships seek their own paths despite the best intentions. \$12 pb, 0-9662578-0-4, Akimac.

Black Books Plus

New York City

Glenderlyn Johnson told us about books that are popular with her customers.

Black History/Women's History Months

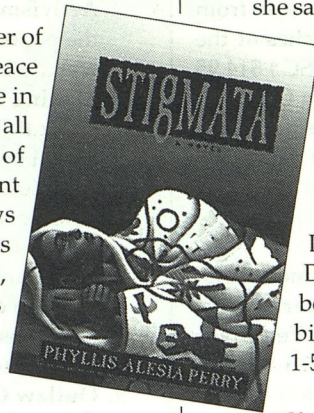
Glenderlyn loves **Just Plain Folks** by Lorraine Johnson-Coleman. "It's so for real, about real people," she said. It's a book of original tales of living, lov-

ing, and learning from people in the rural south. **Just Plain Folks** pays homage to ordinary folks, kin folks. It's about real Black culture, folk culture. Glenderlyn added that it would make a great gift book. \$22 cl, 0-316-46084-2, Little, Brown.

The Farming of Bones by Edwidge Danticat is getting a great deal of attention. Danticat has visited the store for book signings in the past, and her work has a big following at Black Books Plus. \$23 cl, 1-56947-126-6, Soho Press.

A new novel, **Waiting in Vain** by Colin Channer, is also popular. *Booklist* said that "this is not another sister-girl-waiting-to-exhale novel of loves wronged and hearts broken. Rather, Channer has created a story that explores the issues of romance, friendship, homosexuality, and love. The cast of characters includes sculptors, writers, poets, and musicians." \$23 cl, 0-345411-78-1, One World Press.

Finally, **For Black Writers: A Personal Account of How to Write, Publish and Market Your First Book** by Alinona L. Gibson is also a strong seller. Glenderlyn said that it's very well-done with a lot of excellent information. For example, the book explains the mechanics and importance of promotion and provides a glossary of terms. It also includes interviews with publishers and listings of Black publishing companies, agents, and distributors. The author self-published this manual. \$14 pb, 0-966265-40-8, ALB Publishing.



Herland Book-Café

Santa Cruz CA

Kayla Rose told us about Herland's favorite titles.

Black History/Women's History Months

Assata is an autobiography by Assata Shakur. Even though Herland only gets a 25% discount from B&T on this title, it's still well worth ordering. **Assata** is a book that provides insight into the role that women played in the Black Panther party. Shakur was implicated in a murder and was sentenced to life in prison. She currently lives in Cuba. \$13.95 pb, 1-5565-2074-3, Lawrence Hill & Co.

Kayla also sells tons of **Angela Davis: An Autobiography**, which also only gets a 25% discount from B&T. (Davis lives in Santa Cruz and teaches at the History of Consciousness program at UCSC.) \$14.95 pb, 0-717806-67-7, International Publishing Co.

bell hooks' **Teaching to Transgress** is also a perennial bestseller at Herland. \$17.99 pb, 0-415-90808-6, Routledge.

Women's History Month

From the Uppity Women series, **Sheroes: Bold, Brash and Absolutely Unabashed Superwomen, from Susan B. Anthony to Xena** by Varla Ventura is also a strong seller at Herland. \$16.95 pb, 1-57324-128-8, Conari.

For women's history month, Kayla particularly recommends **The Girls' Guide to Take over the World: Writings from the Girl Zine Revolution** edited by Tristan Taormino and Karen Green. Kayla points out that the history makers of the future are the girls putting out zines today, and putting themselves out into the world. \$14.95 pb, 0-312-15535-2, St. Martin's.

Her Story Women's Bookstore

York County PA

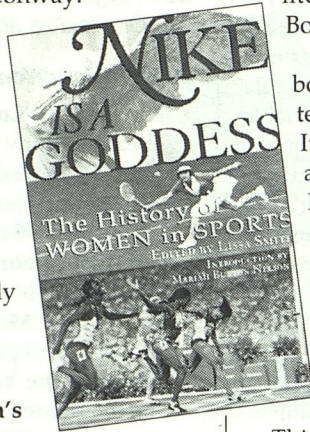
By Kathy Weems

Black History/Women's History Months

1. **does your mama know?** edited by Lisa Moore is an important anthology of Black lesbian coming-out stories. \$19.95 pb, 0-9656659-0-9, RedBone Press.

2. **Body and Soul: The Black Woman's Guide to Physical Health and Emotional Well-Being** edited by Linda Villarosa is the best book of it's kind. \$20, 0-06-095085-4, HarperPerennial.
3. **In the Company of My Sisters: Black Women and Self-Esteem** by Julia A. Boyd is elegant, eloquent, and urgently important. \$9.95 pb, 0-452-27246-7, Plume.
4. **A Long Way from St. Louie** by Colleen McElroy is a staff favorite for its lyrical charm. \$13.95 pb, 1-556890-59-4, Coffeehouse Press.
5. **Killing Rage: Ending Racism** by bell hooks. bell hooks rocks our world! \$12.95pb, 0-8050-5027-2, Henry Holt.
6. **Anything We Love Can Be Saved: A Writer's Activism** by Alice Walker. Thank goddess for the paperback version; it has sold exceedingly well. \$12.95 pb, 0-345-40796-2, Ballantine.
7. **Making Face, Making Soul: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color** edited by Gloria Anzaldua was brought to our attention by a customer's request, and we quickly fell in love with this title. \$17.95 pb, 1-879960-10-9, Aunt Lute Books.
8. **When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America** by Paula Giddings. The title says it all. \$14 pb, 0-688-14650-3, William Morrow.
9. **Outlaw Culture: Resisting Representations** by bell hooks. Seems we just can't get enough of Ms. hooks! \$17.95 pb, 0-415-90811-6, Routledge.
10. **The Book of African-American Women: 150 Crusaders, Creators and Uplifters** by Tonya Bolden is a bestseller year-round. \$16 pb, 1-558506-47-0, Adams.
11. **Celebrating Women's History: A Women's History Month Resource Book** by Mary Ellen Snodgrass is similar in concept to the *Black History Month Resource Book*. It contains 300 activities and projects that can be done with a variety of age groups, from pre-K through adults. Teachers raved about this book last year. \$59.50 cl, 0-787606-05-7, Visible Ink Press.
12. **The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls** by Joan Jacobs Brumberg "offers us an insightful and entertaining history behind the destructive mantra of the 90s — 'I

- hate my body!" — Katie Couric. \$13 pb, 0-679-73529-1, Vintage.
13. **The Princessa: Machiavelli for Women** by Harriet Rubin had a title that intrigued us, and it didn't disappoint the go-getter business women who shop here! \$9.95 pb, 0-440-50832-0, Dell.
 14. **Generations: A Century of Women Speak about Their Lives** by Myriam Miedzian is an excellent book! Remarkable! The staff's favorite book to sell! \$16.95 pb, 0-385-33325-0, Delta.
 15. **Taking Women Seriously: Lessons and Legacies for Educating the Majority** by M. Elizabeth Tidball and Jill K. Conway. Okay, we admit it. We love anything by Jill K. Conway. \$29.50 cl, 1-57356-092-8, Oryx Press.
 16. **Nike Is a Goddess: The History of Women in Sports** edited by Mariah Burton-Nelson and Lissa Smith shot to the top of our re-order database immediately after mailing the 1998 FBN catalog. \$24, 0-87113-726-7, Atlantic Monthly Press.
 17. **The Encyclopedia of Women's History in America** by Kathryn Cullen-Dupont. Is it possible to have too many reference books about women's history? This book convinced us it's not. \$22.50 pb, 0-306-80868-4, Da Capo.
 18. **What Every American Should Know About Women's History: 200 Events That Shaped Our History** by Christine Lunardini just keeps selling and selling and selling. \$10.95 pb, 1-558506-87-0, Adams.
 19. **The American Women's Almanac: An Inspiring and Irreverent Women's History** by Louise Bernikow is another invaluable resource of women's herstory. \$16.95 pb, 0-425-15616-8, Berkley Publishing Group.
 20. **Sheroes: Bold, Brash and Absolutely Unabashed Superwomen, from Susan B. Anthony to Xena** by Varla Ventura is *the* perfect gift book to inspire young feminists. \$16.95 pb, 1-57324-128-8, Conari.



Lioness Books

Sacramento CA

By Theresa Corrigan

Black History/Women's History Months

Her by Cherry Muhanji is at the top of my list of favorite lesbian novels. **Her** reads like jazz poetry. In fact, one of my favorite ways of encouraging people to read it is to read a paragraph to them because once people hear the rhythm and lyricism of the prose, they want to buy it. I would urge you to recommend it to all customers who are looking for quality lesbian literature. \$9.95 pb, 1-879960-02-8, Aunt Lute Books.

Teaching to Transgress by bell hooks is a book that I not only love, but assign every semester to my Introduction to Women's Studies class. It is one of the best descriptions of the purpose and function of education and the educator that I've ever read. And students love it. So if you know any professors or students who aren't familiar with it, recommend it highly. \$17.99 pb, 0-415-90808-6, Routledge.

Bailey's Cafe by Gloria Naylor is a book most of our customers aren't familiar with until we point it out — even though everyone has read Naylor's *Women of Brewster Place*.

This is a stunning and surrealistic novel about fate and connection: the characters only find the cafe if they need to. Told in many voices, the tales in this novel take the reader to a mystical place of survival and hope. \$11 pb, 0-679-74821-0, Random House.

Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice by Paul Kivel is recommended by Gretchen, one of our most supportive customers and our new employee. She said, "It is good to be an ally, but I feel the need to do something about racism. This book gave me direction." \$16.95 pb, 0-86571-338-3, New Society Publishers.

Killing Rage: Ending Racism by bell hooks is another of Gretchen's suggestions. She loves bell hooks' work and this is her favorite. I concur that this book is outstanding. As a teacher, I use hooks' work as an integrity magnet. When I feel myself distracted by campus politics and slipping away from what I know to be my real purpose in teaching, I read and reread bell hooks. \$12.95 pb, 0-8050-5027-2, Henry Holt.

Women's History Month

I've waited with anticipation for the new edition of **Women Who Kill** by Ann Jones because I think it should be a staple in any library of feminist theory. **Women Who Kill** uses the theme of women who were accused of murder to illustrate and examine the interconnected forces of sexism, racism, and classism and how they are reflected in the criminal justice system. This new edition adds discussion about the legal system's response to women who are battered, particularly those who defend themselves. \$15 pb, 0-8070-6775-X, Beacon.

The study of history is typically limited to Euro, then Euro-American stories; even women's history is often simply filling in the gaps of those common stories. If the purpose of history is to offer insights into how to live the future, **The Sacred Hoop** by Paula Gunn Allen presents a much older and more viable vision. The front cover of the book carries this quote: "A landmark book which may prove as important to American Indian women as Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* has been for western non-tribal women." —*New Directions for Women*. This kind of compartmentalization (the assumption that Native American history is only relevant to Native Americans) is what keeps our movement divided. **The Sacred Hoop** is important to everyone who is interested in peace, ecological continuity, and feminism. \$15 pb, 0-8070-4617-5, Beacon.

New Words

Cambridge MA

By Gilda Bruckman

Women's History Month

1. **Sisters in the Resistance: How Women Fought to Free France (1940–1945)** by Margaret Collins Weitz examines a part of history that's consistently overlooked. \$16.95 pb, 0-471-19698-3, Wiley and Sons.
2. **A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785–1812** by Laurel Thatcher, edited by J. Laslocky Ulrich. \$13 pb, 0-679-73376-0, Vintage Books.
3. **The Body Project: An Intimate History of American Girls** by Joan Jacobs Brumberg is important and unique. This book traces girls'

concerns from bra size to cosmetics. It explores the gains and losses of girls since the time of the corset. This book reveals a history that needs to be told. \$13 pb, 0-679-40297-7, Random House.

4. **Medicine Women: A Pictorial History of Women Healers** by Elisabeth Brooke. \$20 pb, 0-835607-51-8, Quest Books.
5. **Why History Matters** by Gerda Lerner. \$13.95 pb, 0-195-12289-5, Oxford University Press.

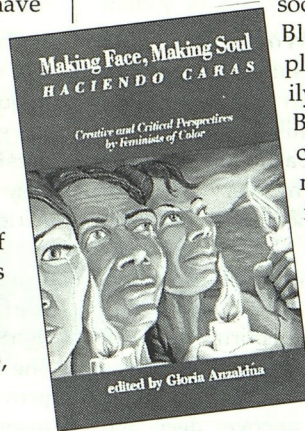
Sisterhood Bookstore

Los Angeles CA

*Sue Otto told us about Sisterhood's favorite titles.***Black History/Women's History Months**

- **Too Heavy a Load: Black Women in Defense of Themselves** by Deborah Gray White is a history of the struggle of Black women to attain equality from exploitation by the author of *Ain't I a Woman*. \$25.95 cl, 0-393-04667-2, Norton.
- **Feminist Theory, From Margin to Center** by bell hooks. \$14 pb, 0-89608-2210, South End Press.
- **Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood** by bell hooks. \$11.95 pb, 0-8050-5512-6, Henry Holt.
- **Sisters of the Yam** by bell hooks is a book that Sue fell in love with when she read it for a psychology class. It encourages women to heal themselves by struggling against both institutionalized and internalized patriarchy. More than a feel-good approach to feeling bad, **Sisters of the Yam** analyzes forces that make and keep women dysfunctional and shows how to overcome these limitations. \$14 pb, 0-89608-4566, South End Press.
- **Unequal Sisters: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History** edited by Vicki Ruiz. \$29.99 pb, 0-415-90892-2, Routledge.
- **Women, Race, and Class** by Angela Davis. \$12 pb, 0-394-71351-6, Random House.
- **Sister Outsider** by Audre Lorde. \$12.95 pb, 0-8959-41414, Crossing Press.
- **Undersong: Chosen Poems, Old and New** by Audre Lorde. \$11.95 pb, 0-393-30975-4, Norton.
- **Born for Liberty** by Sarah Evans is a history of women in America. \$15 pb, 0-6848-34987, Free Press.

- **Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl** by Harriet Jacobs is commonly adopted for courses from women's studies to multicultural studies at UCLA. Sue reports that it is listed for a class every semester. This cross-disciplinary interest makes the book an important one to stock at Sisterhood. \$13.95 pb, 0-195-06670-7, Oxford University Press.
- **Black Women for Beginners** by Sandra Sharp, an L.A. author, chronicles the trials and triumphs of Black women throughout history — describing warriors, healers, teachers, mothers, queens, and liberators — and discusses the challenges Black women around the world have overcome. \$11 pb, 0-863161-47-2, Writers and Readers Press.
- **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston. \$13.50 pb, 0-06-091650-8, HarperCollins.
- **does your momma know** by Lisa Moore. Sue loves to sell this title because there is so little literature in the world about lesbians of color. This collection of coming-out stories is therefore a great personal favorite of Sue's. \$19.95 pb, 0-9656659-0-9, RedBone Press.
- **Nappy Edges** by Ntozake Shange. \$10.95 pb, 0-312-06424-1, St. Martin's Press.
- **Kindred** by Octavia Butler. \$13 pb, 0-8070-8305-4, Beacon Press.
- **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou. \$5.50 pb, 0-553-27937-8, Bantam.
- **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker. \$6.99 pb, 0-67-172779-6, Pocket Books.
- **Women of Brewster Place** by Gloria Naylor. \$11.95 pb, 0-14-006690-X, Penguin.
- **Beloved** by Toni Morrison. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28062-1, Plume.
- **The Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27305-6, Plume.



Renaissance edited by Joanne M. Braxton and Andree Nicola McLaughlin is the first comprehensive collection of critical and theoretical essays to explore the literary and multicultural traditions of Black American women in many genres over a broad span of time. The essays explore cultural and literary experience in a wide context and offer a variety of critical theoretical constructs in which to view that experience. \$17.95 pb, 0-8135-1442-8, Rutgers University Press.

The Rising Song of African American Women by Barbara Omolade explores the politics and vision of Black feminists in our world today, examines the social and cultural significance of Black women intellectuals, and places the present day work, family, and sexual experiences of most Black women within their historical background. By speaking to a number of specific events and issues, Omolade presents a challenging political perspective and analyzes the significance of Black women's lives in creating a powerful new way of writing. \$19.99 pb, 0-415-90761-6, Routledge.

Based on materials from the nationally acclaimed Black

Holocaust Exhibit, **Lest We Forget** by Velma Maia Thomas documents the plight of an estimated 100 million Africans, from their rich pre-slavery culture to their enslavement in a foreign land. This book is a collection of stirring historic papers, memoirs, personal effects, and photographs brought to life in a unique three-dimensional, interactive format. \$29.95 cl, 0-609-60030-3, Crown.

Defending the Spirit: A Black Life in America by Randall Robinson is a searing memoir that paints a vivid and compelling picture of racism — not just in the American South or in South Africa — but in such sophisticated, seemingly enlightened communities as Harvard and Washington, DC. Robinson describes his visits to Caribbean and African trouble spots: from the social strife of the Western Sahara to South Africa, where he played a significant role in the dismantling of apartheid, to the restoration of democracy in Haiti. **Defending the Spirit** is also an intimate and moving portrait of a remarkable man

Sisterspace and Books

Washington DC

By Shakira Washington

Black History/Women's History Months

Wild Women in the Whirlwind: African-American Culture and the Contemporary Literary

and the insight, compassion, and unswerving beliefs that have made him a powerful leader, an impassioned advocate, and the voice of honesty, eloquence, and commitment that he is today. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27968-2, February, Plume.

Today, young Black men are more likely to be killed or sent to prison than to graduate from college. **Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males** by Freeman A. Hrabowski III, Kenneth J. Maton, and Geoffrey L. Greif is an inspiring study that shows how young African American men achieve academic success and what parents can do to help. \$25 cl, 0-195-10219-3, Oxford University Press.

Frederick Douglass on Women's Rights edited by Phillip S. Foner collects the speeches and writings of Frederick Douglass on women's rights. While voting is primary among his themes, he also spoke on the need for women to participate in every phase of American society and in every aspect of decision making. \$13.95 pb, 0-306806-89-1, Da Capo Press.

Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality by Melvin L. Oliver and Thomas M. Shapiro offers a powerful portrait of racial inequality based on an analysis of private wealth. The authors analyze wealth — total assets and debts rather than income alone — to uncover deep and persistent racial inequality in America, and they show how public policies fail to redress the problem. \$16.99 pb, 0-415-91847-2, Routledge.

Her, a rowdy, irreverent novel by Cherry Muhanji, explores a myriad of relationships between Black women — mother and daughter, mother and daughter-in-law, lesbians, Black and “hiyellah” — that together depict the struggle of Black women: how we hold each other up and sometimes let each other down. And how our very lives teach each other survival. \$9.95 pb, 1-879960-02-8, Aunt Lute Books.

In Another Place, Not Here by Dionne Brand tells of two contemporary Caribbean women who find brief refuge in each other on an island in the midst of political uprising. Their tumultuous story moves between city and island, between material and spiritual poverty, and between community and isolation in a past and future time where the dream is always, again, deferred. \$24 cl, 0-802116-22-1, Grove/Atlantic.

Unfortunately, African people in the U.S. still have some prevailing misconceptions about their education and education in general. In this reprinted edition of **The Education of the Negro**, originally printed in the 30s, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson addressed the question of whether or not to teach slaves to read and write — an issue throughout the entire slave period. The slave master knew that if slaves were taught to read and write, they might ultimately emerge as thinkers. These thinkers would inevitably question whether they should be slaves or eventually try to become free. \$9.95 pb, 1-881316-09-2, Red Sea Press.

The Mis-Education of the Negro by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, another reprinted book from the 30s, shows that historically it does not matter who is in power: those who have not learned to do for themselves and have had to depend solely on others never obtain any more rights or privileges in the end than they had in the beginning. \$9.95 pb, 0-865431-71-X, African World Press.

Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy by Annette Gordon-Reed confronts the tale of the relationship between President Thomas Jefferson and his slave Sally Hemings. She explores this liaison neither to prove nor disprove it. Instead her goal is to weigh the evidence, to evaluate the situation's possibilities. In doing so, she provides a meticulous review of primary documents and looks at the way in which the best historians can fall prey to unreasoned predisposition. \$14.95 pb, 0-8139-1833-2, University Press of Virginia.

Roberts vs. Texaco: A True Story of Race and Corporate America by Bari-Ellen Roberts and Jack E. White is the first major chronicle of the complexities of racial discrimination within corporate America. Written in a lively, compelling, and gripping manner, this book establishes the agenda for the struggle for equal rights in the coming century. \$25 cl, 0-380-97627-7, Avon.

Stolen Women: Reclaiming Our Sexuality, Taking Back Our Lives by Gail Elizabeth Wyatt presents a well-researched and balanced perspective of the sexual experiences of African American women. It explodes the myths, examines our past, and sets the path for our healing and our future survival. \$14.95 pb, 0-471-29717-8, John Wiley & Sons.

Jewel Diamond Taylor, the author of **Sisterfriends: Empowerment for Women and a Celebration of Sisterhood**, understands the growing gap between the "haves" and "have-nots." In her insightful book, she provides strategies for women in areas of business development, spiritual understanding, goal setting, parenting, money management, and many other topics. With her books she hopes to help her readers move into the next century on the side of the "haves." \$12.99 pb, 1-884743-06-4, Quiet Time Publishers.

Successful Gems by Jewel Diamond Taylor provides powerful thoughts, affirmations, and quotations for daily leaps of faith towards your success. \$10 pb, 1-884743-02-1, Quiet Time Publishers.

I'm Black and I'm Sober: The Timeless Story of a Woman's Journey Back to Sanity by Chaney Allen is the first autobiography written by a recovering African American woman. Allen, a minister's daughter, discusses her relationships with her mother, brothers, and children, the impact of discrimination, and the obstacles African Americans face as they become sober. \$11.95 pb, 1-568380-71-2, Hazelden.

In the words of Terri McFaddin, "Beauty-full" defines that which reflects the glory and the gifts that emanate from the inner chambers of the body, soul, and spirit." In **In God Made Me Beauty-full: Building Self-Esteem in African American Women** McFaddin discusses how only 10% of our beauty is visible to the eye and shows us strategies on how to open our spiritual eyes, allowing us to see the beauty-full image and likeness of God residing inside of each of us. \$12 pb, 1-884743-05-6, Quiet Time Publishers.

In **A Path to Healing: A Guide to Wellness for Body, Mind, and Soul**, Dr. Andrea D. Sullivan tells you everything you need to know about establishing wellness in your life. In easy-to-understand language, she demystifies alternative medicine, clearly explaining the differences between homeopathic, holistic, and naturopathic approaches, and prescribes an overall guide to maintaining health and keeping disease at bay. \$23.95 cl, 0-385-48577-8, Doubleday.

Exercise Your Right to a Healthy Body: Let's Get Real by Donna Richardson provides a

step-by-step method to working towards a healthy body. Richardson discusses specific exercises and the areas of the body that they affect, provides a list of meals for a healthy diet, and gives her readers the motivation that they need to get started and to stay fit. \$16 pb, 0-67-153883-7, Pocket Books.

Talking Dollars and Making Sense: A Wealth Building Guide for African Americans by Brooke Stephens will show you how to strengthen your financial position, step-by-step. Brooks offers a rare perspective on what African American history can teach us about our financial freedom, and she provides a variety of strategies on subjects such as saving money at higher returns, developing investment strategies, setting goals, managing credit, and many other topics. \$14.95 pb, 0-07-061389-3, McGraw-Hill.

American Beach: A Saga of Race, Wealth, and Memory by Russ Rymer provides astonishing insights into the meaning of American race relations. He searches for answers through three unexpected, overlapping, intensely personal stories. Ultimately he presents a vision of a nation where the futures of Blacks and whites are as linked as their histories, and where Black experience offers a key to the struggle of every modern American. \$25 cl, 0-06-017483-8, HarperCollins.

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler presents an all-too-believable near future. It is the story of Lauren Olamina, an empath who is crippled by the pain of others. One night violence explodes, and the walls of her neighborhood are smashed, annihilating her family and friends. Now she must face the world outside. Leading a tiny band of desperate followers through a thousand miles of hell, she is a prophet bearing nothing but the promises of new life and a new faith, Earthseed. \$5.99 pb, 0-44-660197-7, Warner.

Parable of the Talents by Octavia E. Butler resonates with the usual Butlerian themes of alienation and transcendence, violence and spirituality, slavery and freedom, and separation and community to astonishing effect in the shockingly familiar, broken world of 2032. This story is a continuation of *Parable of the Sower* and is told in the voice of Lauren Olamin's daughter, Larkin, from whom she has been



separated for most of the girl's life. Against a backdrop of a war-torn continent and with a far-right religious crusader in the office of the U.S. presidency, this is a book about a society whose very fabric has been torn asunder. \$24.95 cl, 1-888363-81-9, Seven Stories Press.

This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color edited by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa intends to reflect an uncompromising definition of feminism by women of color in the U.S. It contains prose, poetry, personal narrative, and analysis by African American, Asian American, Latina, and Native American women. \$11.95 pb, ASIN: 0930436105, Kitchen Table: Women of Color

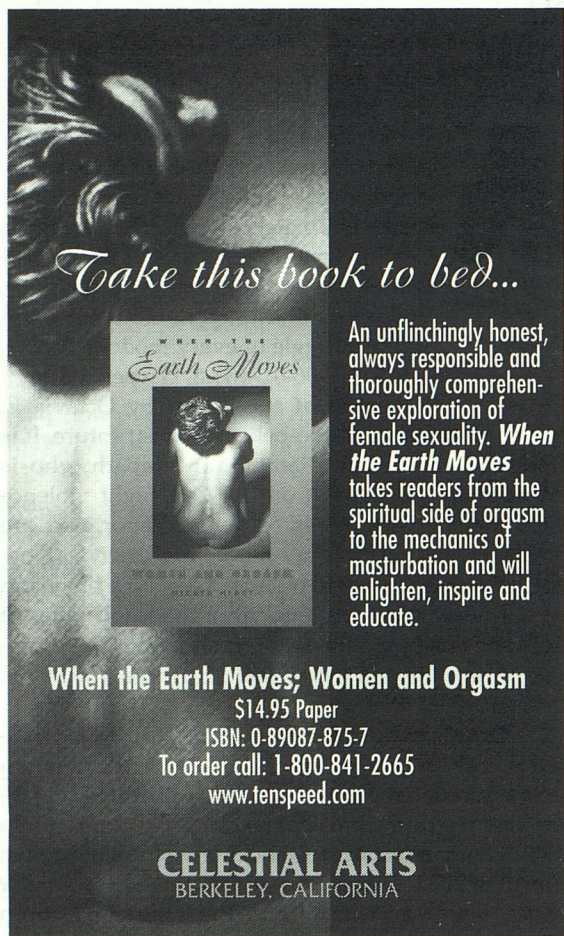
Press. *Editor's note: This title is currently out-of-print and hard to find. We're looking forward to the time when Barbara Smith finds a publisher to reprint it. If you, like Sisterspace, have the opportunity to obtain some of the out-of-print edition, we suggest you do so!*

Surviving the Silence by Charlotte Pierce-Baker tells the stories of Black women who have been raped and who have felt that they had to remain silent in order to protect themselves and their race. This book includes the author's account of her own rape, stories of her family's response, and the voices of Black men who have supported rape survivors, to weave a multi-dimensional account of Black women's survival. \$23.95 cl, 0-393-04661-3, Norton.

Sister, Sell Your Dream: Steppin' out with Attitude by Anita Bunkley provides, through short exercise and practical tips, a step-by-step program that offers both practical advice and emotional support for African American women who want to put their talent, service, dream, or product in the spotlight. Written for women who tend to undersell themselves, this book is filled with quotes, inspirational passages, stories about the author's life, and testimonials from prominent women. \$12.50 pb, 0-06-095288-1, HarperPerennial.

Catherine Ponder, author of **The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity**, is considered one of America's foremost inspirational writers. She has written more than a dozen books, which include such bestsellers as her Millionaires of the Bible series. She is a minister of the nondenominational Unity faith — long known as "the pioneer of positive thinking" — and has been described by some as "the Norman Vincent Peale among lady ministers." She has served in Unity Churches since 1956 and heads a global ministry in Palm Desert, California. \$14.95 pb, 0-875165-51-6, DeVorss Publications.

The River Where Blood is Born by Sadra Jackson-Opoku takes us on a journey along the river of one family's history, carving a course across two centuries and three continents, from ancient Africa into today's America. We come to understand the real meaning of roots through the lives of Mother Africa's many daughters: the captive Proud Mary, who has been savagely punished for refusing to relinquish her child to slavery; Earlene, who witnesses her father's murder at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan; Big



Take this book to bed...

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Momma, a modern-day matriarch who can make a woman of a girl; proud and sassy Cinnamon Brown, whose wild abandon hides a bitter loss; and smart, ambitious Alma, who is torn between the love of a man and the song of her soul. \$12.95 pb, 0-345-42476-X, Ballantine.

Wild Iris Books

Gainesville FL

The women of Wild Iris compiled the following list.

Black History/Women's History Months

- **Black Looks** by bell hooks. \$15 pb, 0-89608-4337, South End Press.
- **Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood** by bell hooks. \$11.95 pb, 0-8050-5512-6, Henry Holt.
- **Killing Rage: Ending Racism** by bell hooks. \$12.95 pb, 0-8050-5027-2, Henry Holt.
- **Wounds of Passion** by bell hooks. \$11.95 pb, 0-8050-5722-6, Henry Holt.
- **But Some of Us Are Black** edited by Gloria T. Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith. \$15.95 pb, 0-912670-95-9, The Feminist Press.
- **Cancer Journals** by Audre Lorde. \$7 pb, 1-879960-26-5, Aunt Lute Books.
- **Divided Sisters: Bridging the Gap between Black Women and White Women** by Midge Wilson. \$23.95 cl, 0-385-47361-3, Anchor.
- **does your mama know** edited by Lisa Moore. \$19.95 pb, 0-9656659-0-9, RedBone Press.
- **Love of a Woman** by Maya Angelou. \$12 pb, 0-553-38009-5, Bantam.
- **Racism 101** by Nikki Giovanni and Virginia Fowler. \$11 pb, 0-6881-4234-6, Quill.

Women's History Month

- **American First Ladies: Their Lives and Their Legacy** edited by Lewis L. Gould. \$25.95 pb, 0-8153-2585-1, Garland.
- **American Women's Almanac: An Inspiring and Irreverent Women's History** by Louise Bernikow. \$16.95 pb, 0-425-15616-8, Berkley Publishing Group.
- **Anonymous Was a Woman** by Mirra Bank. \$13.95 pb, 0-312-13430-4, St. Martin's Press.

- **Eleanor Roosevelt, Volume I (1884-1933)** by Blanche Wiesen Cook. \$16.95 pb, 0-14-009460-1, Penguin.
- **Failure Is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words** by Lynn Sherr. \$15 pb, 0-812-92718-4, Times.
- **Gift from the Sea** by Anne Morrow Lindberg. \$8.95 pb, 0-679-73241-1, Vintage.
- **Guerrilla Girls' Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art** by the Guerrilla Girls. \$18.95 pb, 0-14-025997-X, Penguin.
- **Medicine Women: A Pictorial History of Women Healers** by Elizabeth Brooke. \$20 pb, 0-835607-51-8, Quest.
- **Paris Was a Woman: Portraits from the Left Bank** by Andrea Weiss. \$28 cl, 0-044409-29-X, Rivers Oram Press.
- **Witch in History** by Diane Purkiss. \$19.99 pb, 0-415-08762-7, Routledge.
- **Witchcraze: A New History of the European Witch Hunts** by Anne Llewellyn Barstow. \$14 pb, 0-06-251036-3, HarperSanFrancisco.
- **Witches, Midwives, Nurses** by Barbara Ehrenreich and Deidre English. \$5.95 pb, 0-912670-13-4, The Feminist Press.

Women and Children First

Chicago IL

Jeanine Weekes and Ann Christophersen each compiled a list of must-carries for Women and Children First.

By Jeanine Weekes

Women of Hope: African Americans Who Made a Difference by Joyce Hansen. Luminous black and white portraits and biographical profiles distinguish this wonderful collection honoring twelve women of color, from Ida B. Wells-Barnett to Mae C. Jemison, whose visions continue to inspire us. Ages 9-12. \$16.95 cl, 0-59-093973-4, Scholastic Press.

Affirmative Acts: Political Essays: From Rodney King to O.J. Simpson, from Bosnia to Connecticut to California by June Jordan. June Jordan surveys the political landscape that shapes contemporary race and gender politics in the U.S. and around the world. With razor-sharp analysis and unbridled passion, she voices the anger, the tears, and

the hope necessary to drive us toward the world community that we all deserve. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-49225-1, Anchor Books.

The Feminist Memoir Project: Voices from Women's Liberation edited by Rachel Blau DuPlessis and Ann Snitow. This collection of essays provides unflinching reflection on the women's civil rights movement — where it's been and where it needs to go. Thirty-two women writers recall their passion for and involvement in the women's movement with, at once, sentimental and critical eyes. The history provided here is exactly the kind of history that helps us see and make the future. A necessary addition to every feminist library. \$20 pb, 0-609-80384-0, Three Rivers Press.

At the Heart of Freedom: Feminism, Sex, and Equality by Drucilla Cornell. Drawing from and challenging traditional ethical thought and psychoanalytic theory, Drucilla Cornell sketches a clear picture of what is necessary for women to truly find themselves free and equal. She has brought forward a complex and yet accessible analysis of the degree to which Western political thought underestimates what women are obligated to provide our citizenry in order to allow ourselves the freedom and equality that we deserve. Cornell has expanded the boundaries of feminist ethical thought and changed the debate over political freedom. \$14.95 pb, 0-691-02896-6, Princeton University Press.

By Ann Christophersen

Black History/Women's History Months

Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Emancipation. This book-and-cassette set is the result of a collaboration between publisher Andre Schiffrin of The New Press, scholars, the Library of Congress, and Smithsonian Productions. The book consists primarily of transcripts of interviews with former slaves conducted in the 30s and 40s as a project of the WPA. The written testimony about the experience of slavery — and freedom — is complex, disturbing, and inspiring. But it is listening to recordings of some of the interviews — hearing the words of people who experienced slavery tell of it in their own voices — that is uniquely powerful. \$49.95, 1-5658-4425-4, The New Press.

African Feminism: The Politics of Survival in Sub-Saharan Africa edited by Gwendoyne Mikell is somewhat formidable in its academic presentation: the introduction is over 30 pages long and contains 120 footnotes. That being said, the book contains ten important and relatively accessible essays that support and develop the premise set forth in the introduction: that because of cultural and historical differences with the West, feminism in Africa has run a much different course and has a much different agenda than in the U.S., Great Britain, and Europe. \$19.95 pb, 0-8122-1580-X, University of Pennsylvania Press.

The Joys of Motherhood by Buchi Emecheta is an old book just discovered by a new staff member. From the author of *Second-Class Citizen* and other important books published in Heinemann's African Writers Series, this is an expertly told feminist narrative about a Nigerian woman who makes unflinching sacrifices for her children during a time of tumult and difficulty. Emecheta wraps this story in courage and startling humor and brings the reader close to its protagonist, Nnu Ego. Ego evokes our respect and admiration as she finds that the joys of motherhood lie deep within its heartaches. \$10.95 pb, 0-435-90972-X, Heinemann.

Women's History Month

Playing in a New League: The Women of the American Basketball League's First Season. As a Chicagoan and die-hard Bulls' fan, I never thought I could utter these words, but here goes: I don't miss the NBA this fall. The reason? The first game of the ABL's new Chicago team, the Condors, caused my pulse rate to rise even higher than during those final seconds of the big-game playoffs. Read about the exciting beginnings of the ABL in Sara Gogol's book. \$14.95 pb, 1-57028-199-8, Master Press.

The central observation and the operative metaphor for Michelle Citron's exploration of her life, **Home Movies and Other Necessary Fictions**, is the way home movies sometimes capture and represent life as it was lived and other times create a version of it that is more romance than reality. Event, image, memory, art, theory, and analysis all converge in this skillful, experimental, revealing memoir by a feminist filmmaker, critic, and teacher. \$19.95 pb, 0-8166-3262-6, University of Minnesota Press. ○

Selling Their Souls

THE HIGH COST OF POSTING B&N WEB SITE BANNERS

"The key to developing an online business is getting customers to try a product once. [Once they've tried it, if] you've got the product, you've got a customer. [How you] get...them together is irrelevant."

—Heinz Wermelinger of Books Online in the *Wall Street Journal*. (Books Online is Bertelsmann's online bookselling venture that will launch in the U.K., Germany, France, Spain, and the Netherlands in early 1999. Bertelsmann, the German-based publisher that owns Random House and Bantam Doubleday Dell, recently bought a 50 percent interest in barnesandnoble.com from B&N, which then bought Ingram...)

By Carol Seajay

How you get customers to abandon their local community bookstore for an online multinational corporation may be irrelevant to Bertelsmann. (Or Barnes & Noble or Amazon.com.) But it does matter to the bookstores whose communities are being raided for customers. And it should matter to those — including the gay community's leadership — who are being used to encourage lesbians and gays to take our bodies and souls (not to mention money) out of our own community and give it to multinational corporations whose commitment to gays and lesbians is only as deep as our pockets and as time-limited as our options to shop elsewhere.

HRC, Gay Parenting, AAUW, PFLAG, and PlanetOut have all put B&N banners on their Web sites in recent months — presumably for remuneration — and perhaps out of a genuine desire to provide a service. All, as far as we've been able to determine, were approached by B&N and offered various packages, most of which included cash up-front for signing the agreement, significant monthly payments for posting the banner (\$2000+), significant additional advertising revenue in the organization's publications (\$20,000+ per hit) — and/or a percentage of sales (5–8 percent) generated from the organization's link to B&N.

The question is, are these organizations willing to be used to take resources out of lesbian, gay, and

feminist community? Do they want to erode sales in our community's bookstores? Are they willing, essentially, to compromise one part of their community to generate revenue for themselves? Are the online "services" they're "providing" genuine, or are they just part of a bill of goods — advertising hype — being sold to them by the big online corporations?

***Gay Parenting emerged
as the hero. They simply
apologized and took the
b&n.com banner down, posting
a notice in its place saying,
"We no longer promote
Barnes and Noble."***

These are the questions that feminist booksellers put to HRC, AAUW, Gay Parenting, and GLAAD (who gave their annual "Fairness" Award to B&N last fall), in what has become yet another wave of "educating our community" — in this case, educating the people who work in national organizations (with glitzy Web sites) and who claim to be community

leaders. People who, one would expect, should already be very familiar with these issues, given the amount of publicity the financial crisis in gay and feminist bookstores has received in recent years.

This trend started last fall as HRC's (the Human Rights Campaign) fall newsletter hit the stores. It encouraged readers, supporters, and members to order their books from b&n.com via HRC's Web site as a way to support the organization.

Feminist booksellers across the country went through their roofs, packed up the newsletters, and sent them back with notes protesting, "You're asking me to distribute your newsletter in my store, but in it you're telling my customers not to shop here, to take their money out of this community and this bookstore (which they depend on for, among many, many other services, copies of *your* newsletter) and give it to B&N?!! I can't provide you with that service. I cannot collude with you to destroy this community and this community institution. Here are the copies of your newsletter." The Feminist Bookstore Network, which had rented HRC's mailing list to distribute copies of the Feminist Bookstore Network Catalog, canceled its order, explaining, "There's no point in spending our money to promote books to your members if you're then going to tell those people to order their books from a superchain instead of from their community bookstores. We'd do all the work and B&N would get all the benefit!"

Booksellers then talked to local HRC staff, board members, and supporters. In discussion another problem emerged: HRC's December newsletter, which was almost at press, was scheduled to carry a full-page ad for B&N, encouraging HRC members to order books online through the HRC/B&N link. With only a few days to make the decision, the HRC staff did the right thing and pulled the ad — and promised to reexamine their involvement with B&N and find

other ways to support their community bookstores. The HRC staff seemed ambivalent about the B&N contract, and the staff member who had pushed for it last spring no longer works at HRC.

More good news: HRC had refused to sign B&N's boilerplate contract (which requires that no other bookstores be listed on the site) so HRC is free to give equal promotion to feminist and gay stores, even if they aren't willing to break their contract with B&N by taking the banner down. The bad news? Despite their brave action in pulling the ad — and with only a handful of shopping days left before Christmas — the HRC staff has not yet acted on any of the other possibilities and their site is still, without qualification or education, encouraging visitors to shop at B&N.

***GLAAD promised that
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after self-evaluation,
concluded that
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and support their
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A notice similar to HRC's appeared in the Gay Parenting newsletter. Booksellers also noticed the b&n.com banner on the AAUW (American Association of University Women) site. Then GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) announced they were giving their "Fairness" Award to B&N. And, of course, there's still the PFLAG site, where Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays have been encouraging their community to shop at B&N since last spring — despite the mountain of letters from their members, as well as from feminist,

gay, lesbian, and other independent bookstores, decrying their promotion of the superchain at the expense of our community stores. Each story seemed to imply that community leaders were selling out to the superchains, not just in one place, but all over the gay cyber-map.

But there was good news, too, and fruitful discussion.

Gay Parenting emerged as the hero. They simply apologized and took the b&n.com banner down, posting a notice in its place saying, "We no longer promote Barnes and Noble."

The GLAAD staff acknowledged that they have an obligation to support their community's independent bookstores, even while maintaining that B&N's domestic-partner benefits program and its requirement that all stores have gay sections (however scanty) merited an award (despite B&N's aggressive competition against gay and feminist bookstores *and* the ABA's lawsuit charging that the superstore engages in grossly unfair and illegal business practices intended to destroy other bookstores). GLAAD promised that they would *never* put a superstore banner on their site and, after self-evaluation, concluded that they have been remiss in their obligation to recognize and support their community bookstores. GLAAD is developing a program to increase community bookstores' visibility on their highly trafficked Web site.

AAUW, which has never been at the center of gay, lesbian, or feminist communities, was pleased to discover the range of feminist stores with active Web sites and is looking for a way to tie their book group program (which is focused on educating members about diversity issues through reading) to a feminist bookstore site and/or increasing visibility of online feminist bookstores to their members.

PFLAG, which generally sees supporting gay children and their community as a primary mission, has consistently maintained a pro-chain stance, despite pleas from gay, lesbian, and feminist booksellers across the country.

The votes aren't all in yet: several of these organizations are still deciding how they're going to respond — but in the meantime, they continue to wave those B&N banners all day, every day. Clearly, educational work needs to continue — not just with these groups, but with *all* women's, lesbian, and gay sites that are linked to or promoting superchains or the online giants. (Not to mention all of the authors who want feminist bookstores to stock their books, but whose press releases or email listings advise, "Order from Amazon.com." — and haven't a clue why this isn't in their long-term self-interest.)

Several themes have emerged in these discussions. First of all, our community leaders (still) don't fully understand how thoroughly the superchains

and online monoliths threaten one of the oldest and most essential underpinnings of the gay community: its bookstores. They don't yet understand the impact of their participation in b&n.com's publicity machine.

Second, we're facing a failure in either leadership or principles. "Everyone else is doing it" is not a political analysis. These leadership organizations could take a page from the Berkeley Women's Music Collective of two decades ago, when Nancy Vogl sang, "No thanks mister/I don't want your ride/I've been that route before./This time around, you know, I got me some pride/and I won't give in no more./No, I won't give in no more."

And I've come to suspect that our community leaders are being sold a faulty bill of goods. Almost every organization has responded to FBN's queries with "But we're providing a service to the community — to isolated rural gays who don't have access to a bookstore." I've heard that line so often, it's beginning to sound like an urban myth. Or is it, perhaps, a very emotional (and therefore effective) part of

I think we really have to start educating people. Last week I spent a great deal of time talking to women's studies students who were working on class projects and wanted to know about the store closing.... (Editor's note: Womansline recently closed its storefront to become an online and mail-order only bookstore.) They all wanted to talk about freedom of speech for Canadian feminist bookstores. Their primary concern? Canadian Customs!

When I told these students that their big problem is going to be with Chapters, their collective jaws hit the ground. They'd never even thought of this. Never thought of the danger to small presses, university presses, gay/lesbian authors, etc. They'll admit they aren't satisfied with the women's studies and g/l/b/t sections of Chapters, but the other shoe never drops.... When there are no more independents, that will be their choice: a big, convenient store with a very limited collection.

Why aren't their professors telling them about this?

—Sharon Collingwood
Womansline Books/London, Ontario

B&N's sales pitch? Again and again, as I talk with people in these organizations, I've been asked to consider the plight of the poor, rural gay person who doesn't have access to books and *needs* this connection to b&n.com (or Amazon.com) to get books. I dutifully conjure up a 1910-ish image of some poor, isolated gay person living in a shack on a windblown Dakota prairie. The pony express gallops up just as s/he is turning the shotgun to her/his own head.... It's heart-wrenching, and we all know that story well. Feminist, gay, and lesbian bookstores are about *ending* that kind of isolation.

But look again: Something doesn't quite hold up in this picture. It's the pony express rider. It's the delivery system. It's the implication that the Big Chain Store can, somehow, deliver books to rural areas and feminist and gay stores can't. But the Big Chain uses exactly the same delivery systems that all the rest of us use: UPS, RPS, Fed Ex and, occasionally, the U.S. Postal Service. (Reality check: Book delivery is not a unique service that only b&n.com can provide.)

Furthermore, b&n.com (and Amazon.com) *order* their books from exactly the same places that gay, lesbian, and feminist bookstores do. There's nothing they can order that our stores can't order.

Look again: This "poor, rural, isolated gay" is getting information from X, Y, or Z organization's *Web site*. S/he has a computer, a modem, and is cruising the World Wide Web. If "isolated gays" can find X, Y, or Z's Web site, they can certainly follow a link to a feminist or gay bookstore's site and find a lot more books of interest much more quickly than they'll find books at a Big Chain site. (And UPS will be just as happy to deliver them.) And they're likely to encounter some real people at the community store site, rather than just automated boilerplate emails confirming their orders. I'm sorry, I just can't see that steering "isolated" gays to a chain store and *away* from their community is doing them a service.

And then there's the "poor, frightened, closeted person." What's wrong in this picture? This scenario is somehow predicated on the assumption that all feminist and gay bookstores' mailing labels read "Dirty Queer Bookstore" and that a this poor person is going to be *outed* simply by ordering a book from a feminist or gay store. As if all the neighbors somehow know that a package that says "Amazon.com" on the return address and is postmarked "Washington" is A-OK but know that a package that says "Amazon" on the mailing

label but is postmarked "Minnesota" will be a lesbian bookstore. I think of such racy names as New Words, Brigit's, In Other Words, Antigone, Wild Iris, Charis, Common Language, Sweet Violets, A Different Light, Glad Day, and the like. (New Words? Glad Day? Mercy! They sound more like Christian bookstores than anything else!) This scenario ignores the fact that feminist and gay bookstores have been shipping books in the proverbial "plain brown wrapper" since before these chains were established. This scenario asks you to believe that our stores are less respectful of closeted people or PFLAG folk

than B&N is. Any *a priori* assumption that only super-chain bookstores can provide appropriate services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people (and their parents and friends) needs serious examination.

Upon reconsideration, these scenarios — the poor, isolated, rural gay (on the Internet) who *needs* b&n.com to get books, and the poor, closeted gay who would be *outed* by ordering a book from anyone other than b&n.com — look more like a homophobic fear campaign pitched (and sold) to gay organizations than anything else.

The offers are tempting — and they come attached to tempting sums of money. They come with emotional sales pitches. But what are the real costs? What will happen to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and feminist communities if all of our organizations buy into the multinational corporate push to put book distribution into the hands of a few corporate multinationals? Who does this serve? ○

The offers are tempting

— and they come

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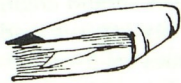
COMMENTARY & TRIVIA

By Carol Seajay

Toward a "Lean, Mean, and Fast-Moving" ABA Board

As part of their strategic planning process and the revamping of the organization, the ABA Board and the Bylaws Committee are asking members to approve a radical new structure for the ABA Board. Members will vote on the new bylaws at the Annual Membership meeting in Los Angeles this May. The proposal calls for a nine-member Board to replace the current twenty-person Board, a change from four officers to two, and the creation of two advisory councils. The goal is to create a "lean, mean, and fast-moving Board" that can respond quickly to opportunities, industry changes, and other situations as needed — a goal that is certainly appropriate for an organization that is involved in a major lawsuit, that is negotiating cyberspace deals to create a significant Internet sales presence for its members, and that is frequently needing to "wheel and deal" in its members' interest in a rapidly changing business environment. We need an aggressively proactive ABA Board and the Board, in turn, needs a structure that can facilitate its success.

That said, the proposed system offers some serious challenges.



In addition to the obvious consolidation of power, the structure of this Board — in which all members would be required to take on all of the responsibilities of both the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee — means that only booksellers who already have an extremely high level of expertise in these areas could serve on the Board. That

would virtually eliminate small stores, stores that don't have a full-time manager (so the owner can leave several times a year to attend Board meetings), and stores that are not independently wealthy or otherwise subsidized. It also requires that new Board members come in at the "inner circle" level, rather than being able to "learn their way up" to the skill level necessary to manage the finances of an organization ABA's size. There is a tendency, in any such situation, for an organization's priorities to shift toward the needs of its most visible constituencies, letting the needs of the less strategically placed constituencies slide. One of the strengths of the existing structure is that, no matter how much of the actual management is done in the Executive and Finance Committees, these committees still have to go to the mix of booksellers comprising the rest of the Board, explain what they're doing, and get their approval. It's that old system of checks and balances. The proposed advisory councils (one comprised of booksellers and the other of people from throughout the industry) are designed to provide input, but aren't designed to provide a balance of power. Accountability, instead, would be the responsibility of an Audit Committee, which would be appointed by the Board, rather than elected by the membership.

Members defeated a similar proposal several years ago that seemed to be designed to shift power away from the elected Board and into the hands of senior ABA staff. This proposal (and the environment in which it is proposed) has quite a different feel. What we have now is a staff, management, and Board that are actively pursuing every avenue possible to support independent bookstores. Unlike the first proposal, this one preserves some larger-picture safeguards: 1. Members can, in any election, elect an alternate slate of officers and Board members by

write-in. 2. Bookstore members may also be nominated (and their names added to the ballot) via petitions carrying the signatures of two percent of the membership (approximately 70 people at current membership levels) as long as the signatures come from at least five different states and no more than 50 percent come from one state. That's a challenge, but it is feasible. Easier, perhaps, for nationally based constituencies such as African American booksellers, children's booksellers, or feminist booksellers, than for booksellers whose primary networks are based in one state.

The odds are that the smaller Board will set some priorities and policies that aren't going to be in the interests of the smallest stores. But then again, given the commitment and passion at hand, the proposed Board will undoubtedly also implement programs and take advantage of opportunities that would have been impossible under the old structure — some of which may go a long way toward keeping independent booksellers, small and large, on the map. It seems worth the risk. As one bookseller put it, "Five years from now, if we don't like what they're doing, we can always run alternate slates and take it back. If we're here. And if we don't survive, it won't matter one whit."



A Rose Is a Rose Is an Independent?

The other controversial issue that's likely to come up during the discussions of the proposed bylaws is the question of amending ABA's name to specify independent booksellers.

The "ABA" (in an unsigned editorial in *Bookselling This Week*) argues that in this day and age, "perception (rather than possession) is nine-tenths of the law" — and that many of its missions, including its ability to advocate for independent booksellers, would be weakened if the public (Congress, the court system, publishers, et al.) perceived ABA (AIBA?) as advocating only for a minority segment of booksellers, rather than representing the interests of all (good, American) booksellers. Further, "ABA" argues that while its core membership is comprised of independent bookstores, ABA also provides services to a variety of other kinds of booksellers, including

museum stores, Internet booksellers, college stores, mail-order bookstores, etc. — and that independents are served by having a larger community of booksellers.

Feminist Bookstore News' position? First of all, we think that unsigned editorials and position statements are worse than useless. When ABA members raise issues, they deserve a signed response. If the response is personal opinion, it needs to be clear whose opinion it is. If the response refers to ABA policy, the source for that policy needs to be cited. Unsigned, unidentified responses close off dialogue and present the many people who make up ABA and its complex and important structures as an unapproachable, uninterested monolith, rather than encouraging open dialogue, which is represented in ABA's strategic planning process.

That aside, it seems to *FBN* that there are two deeper issues here. Does having a broader-based membership prevent ABA from acting in the interests of its core membership in any way? If not, then "ABA's" points probably outweigh the pleasure of having the ABA solidly named as an independents' organization. But if so, those areas need to be named and addressed in the discussion.

Beneath the question of name, however, there seems to be an even more important question of activity and priority. In the opinion piece in *Bookselling This Week* that evoked the unsigned response, David Mosley (Bookshelf Stores in Northern California) states that, "many average consumers fail to recognize independent bookstores as a national presence or cohesive group." While a name change might help to resolve that problem, a more direct approach would be a massive public education and branding program. Feminist booksellers, several years ago — before "branding" was even a buzz word — sponsored a resolution that ABA should engage in the promotion of independent bookstores and public education regarding our issues vis-à-vis the chains. The Annual Meeting passed the resolution, nearly unanimously, and the organization responded by developing Independent Bookstore Week — a worthy program, but clearly inadequate to resolve the problem.

Setting up a Web Site?

BookWare, a free software package for developing online bookstores, has been getting some great

raves on the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association e-list. It offers shopping cart capability, dynamic linking and searching, faster searches, and more user options. For more information — or to download a copy — go to (<http://www.glasscat.com/bookstores>).



Amazon.com and “Free Speech”

Amazon.com, after initially shouting about “free speech,” and their “need to make all of the books in our catalog available” finally took a look at their “Associate” Bob Enyart’s Web site. A small mountain of email and letters protesting and quoting Enyart’s virulent and violence-invoking anti-gay rhetoric and a *lot* of bad press on the e-lists and news groups finally got through to Amazon.com, which suddenly announced that they were discontinuing their association with Enyart. (Both Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com have “Associate” or “Affiliate” programs, through which they encourage other Web sites to link to their sites for “book fulfillment services” in exchange for a percentage of book sales, monthly cash payments, advertising, or other payments.)

It’s hard to know which is more disgusting: Amazon.com’s utter lack of standards for its business partners, its apparent willingness to distribute hate literature, or its willingness to do nothing unless customers monitor and critique its actions. Guess that’s a working definition of the lovely phrase “corporate responsibility” that we hear bandied about so often these days.

I’m glad that the anti-gay material sparked a letter-writing campaign. Anti-gay material should. And companies should respond — a lot more efficiently and effectively than Amazon.com did. (It seems not to have any program in place for *dis*-associating itself from undesirable business partners: the links from Enyart’s site to Amazon.com were still up as of this writing.)

But I come away from this political “victory” with a very bad taste in my mouth. Why was the focus of these protests only Enyart’s homophobia? Why did Amazon.com respond to complaints of his homophobia but not the rest of his views? Enyart is also virulently anti-Semitic (he promotes books like

Cleansing the Fatherland: Nazi Medicine and Racial Hygiene and *The German Euthanasia Program* on his Web site). He is anti-choice and woman-hating. Is this the standard: “If it affects white gay men, we’ll take offense and protest it, but they’re the only people we care about?” Is it OK in “our community” to be woman-hating or racist, as long as (white) gay men aren’t abused? Do women need to go back to political separatism to get women’s issues and minority rights acknowledged?

Amazon.com needs to do better than this — and so do the educated, “conscious” denizens of the Internet. Can gays with computers spell a-l-l-i-e-s? or c-o-a-l-i-t-i-o-n? I’ve got news, guys: A culture that tolerates racism, anti-Semitism, or woman-hating will also be virulently anti-gay. The only society that will be safe for gay men is one that successfully eliminates “difference” as a basis for violence and discrimination. If you can’t muster the compassion to have a politic wider than your own self-interest, then fight for the safety of women, Jews, and ethnic and racial minorities because it *is* in your own self-interest.



And on the Corporate Front

Barnes & Noble may be trying to buy Ingram, but Borders has already signed on Phil Pfeffer, who is credited with moving Ingram from a sleepy little wholesaler to its near-monopoly position as the primary book wholesaler in the U.S., as its new CEO. Pfeffer spent the years between Ingram and Borders at pre-Berlelsmann Random House.

I guess the “good” news is that Borders’ profitability slid a bit last fall: Even though it opened a record 25 stores during the quarter ending October 25 (for a total of 238 stores), it reported a loss of \$800,000 for the quarter. The same quarter the year before showed a \$400,000 profit. Comparable store sales were up 3.6%, though, and total sales showed a 17% increase over the same quarter last year. Meanwhile Borders-owned Waldenbooks reported a 3.5% decline in sales from the previous year, the closure of 31 stores (leaving 896 stores in operation), and a decline in comparable store sales of 1.5%. Nice to

See Commentary, page 19.

BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

By Teri Mae Rutledge

Down There Press has gone back to press with four books. *Herotica: A Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction* edited by Susie Bright has a new afterward in which Bright describes the trials and tribulations faced in putting together this groundbreaking book at a time when women's erotica was virtually unknown. The first edition has 11,000 copies in print; the Herotica series boasts a total of 80,000 books in print. *The Good Vibrations Guide: The G-Spot* by Cathy Winks is going back to press for a second printing, bringing its in-print total to 10,500 copies. Only three months after its release date, the revised, third edition of *Anal Pleasure and Health* by Jack Morin, Ph.D., is going back to press for a total of 13,000 copies in print. The combined in-print total for all editions is 85,000. Joani Blank's *A Kid's First Book about Sex* is on its way back to the printer for the seventh time, bringing the total number of books in print to 25,000.



Awards

The Publishing Triangle has announced several awards for gay literature. Elena Dykewoman's novel *Beyond the Pale* was awarded the Ferro Grumley fiction award. Colm Toibin was the gay fiction winner for *The Story of the Night*. David Sedaris won the Randy Shilts Award for nonfiction for his bestselling book *Naked*. Margot Peters was given the Judy Grahn Award for her biography of lesbian writer, May Sarton. Playwright Chay Yew was on hand to receive the Robert Chesley award, and M.E. Kerr was presented with the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Publishing Triangle chair Charles Flowers also announced that the organization is creating an editorial board of scholars, critics, and writers to determine the 100 most influential gay male and lesbian novels.

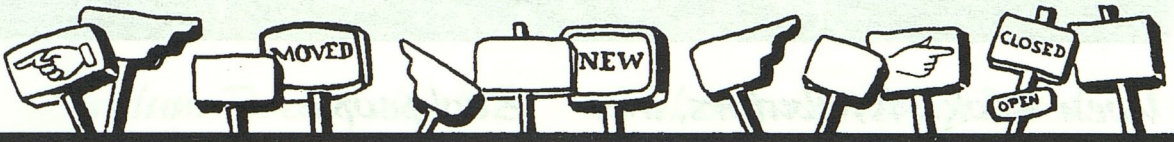
The results will be announced in June as part of National Lesbian and Gay Book Month.

Isabel Allende is the recent recipient of two awards. First, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize is given to persons making significant contributions to the arts. Second, she was awarded the Sara Lee Frontrunner Award, which recognizes significant women. Toni Morrison nominated Allende for the Frontrunner award. Recipients of the Frontrunner award are asked to name a protégé for special recognition, and Allende named Lan Cao, author of *Monkey Bridge*.

The National Book Awards ceremony was held this fall. Alice McDermott's *Charming Billy* (FSG) won the NBA for fiction. A list of nominees follows: *Kaaterskill Falls* by Allegra Goodman (The Dial Press), *The Healing* by Gayl Jones (Beacon Press), *Damascus Gate* by Robert Stone (Houghton Mifflin), and *A Man in Full* by Tom Wolfe (FSG). Edward Ball won the nonfiction award for *Slaves in the Family* (FSG). Other nominees were *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human* by Harold Bloom (Riverhead/Penguin), *There Once Was a World: A 900 Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok* by Yaffa Eliach (Little, Brown), *A Slant of Sun: One Child's Courage* by Beth Kephart (Norton), and *All On Fire: William Lloyd Garrison and the Abolition of American Slavery* by Henry Mayer (St. Martin's Press). *This Time: New and Selected Poems* by Gerald Stern (W.W. Norton) won the award for poetry. Other nominees were *The Art of the Lathe* by B.H. Fairchild (Alice James Books), *The Little Space: Poems Selected and New, 1968-1998* by Alicia Suskin Ostriker (University of Pittsburgh), *Carnival Evening: New and Selected Poems 1968-1998* by Linda Pastan (W.W. Norton), and *From the Devotions* by Carl Phillips (Graywolf). *Holes* by Louis Sachar (Frances Foster/FSG) won the young people's literature award. Other nominees were *The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods* by

See **Back to Press**, page 128.

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



By Teri Mae Rutledge

New Store

Angie's Books Etc. of Akron, Ohio, opened its doors last July. Co-owners Julia Hines and Barbara Greve see the opening of the store as an act of divine intervention. "We were having breakfast at Highland Square, when we noticed this vacant space. I guess it had been vacant for a year and we hadn't noticed it. But we looked at it and started making plans...." At around the same time, Barbara's grandmother gave Barbara the balance of an account that she'd been saving since Barbara was a girl. "We thought that God was trying to tell us something," said Julia. And, indeed, one of their goals is to be "a sort of ministry." So Julia has retired from her job as a veterinary technician, and the couple hopes that Barbara will be able to leave her job soon, too. Angie's stocks bestselling books, spirituality books, and books for the special needs of her clientele — heterosexual families, gay men and lesbians, punk rockers, you name it. Not surprisingly, Julia has found that their edge in the bookselling business is special orders. "There is a Borders two miles up the road, but they don't like to call publishers and set up accounts. And they will take two to six weeks to fill an order when we can do it in five days. Some Borders employees are referring their customers to us." The store also stocks cards, pride items, candles, and special items like wind chimes from Bali, and emphasizes artwork and crafts by local artists. (They also hang artwork in the store.) Julia says that the gifts are what's keeping the store in business. The store is located in busy Highland Square and receives a lot of foot traffic. It is situated between two bars — "that's a downside," said Julia — but two doors down from Angel Falls, a gay-owned coffee shop. The store recently hired two marketing agents

at a greatly reduced fee to publicize the store. "They're two nice Christian guys, and one of them has a brother who's gay," said Julia. They helped to get the store a feature in the local paper, and they're setting up a Web site for the store as well. I, for one, am happy to know that a lesbian-owned bookstore is up and running in my hometown! Angie's Books Etc., 816½ W. Market St., Akron OH 44303; 330-374-0444.



Books

Two Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press books are being brought back into print by Rutgers University Press. Two of Mitsuye Yamada's poetry collections, *Camp Notes and Other Poems* and *Desert Run: Poems and Stories*, are published in one volume: *Camp Notes and Other Writings*. Shameless Hussy Press originally published *Camp Notes* in 1976, and Kitchen Table brought it back into print in 1992. Kitchen Table was the original publisher of *Desert Run* a decade ago. (\$15 pb, 0-8135-2606-X.) Rutgers is also republishing Hisaye Yamamoto's *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories*. This award-winning collection was originally published by Kitchen Table in 1988. (\$14 pb, 0-8135-2607-8.)

Two major works by Betty Friedan are being brought back into print by Harvard University Press. "It Changed My Life:" *Writings on the Women's Movement* was originally published by Random House in 1976. The new edition has a new introduction from Friedan. (\$15.95 pb, 0-674-46885-6.) *The Second Stage* was Friedan's second major theoretical work, published after *The Feminine Mystique*. Friedan has also written a new introduction for *The Second Stage*. (\$15.95 pb, 0-674-79655-1.)

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Odd Girls Press has indefinitely postponed the publication of *Undelete* by Irene Stuber, featured in the FB-Net Catalog. However, *First Resort* by Nanci Little, last projected to appear sometime 1999, has been available since December 1998. *Books in Print* has apparently classified *First Resort* as a women's studies textbook. Rest assured, it is still a novel, and BIP has received notice of the error.

Odd Girls has new terms of sale: 50% on 3+ books. Will bill, net 30. Shipping is a \$3 flat fee. Odd Girls will now accept returns within 60 days of the shipping date if the books are not damaged.

New Distributors

Moxie: For the Woman Who Dares, a smart magazine that tells women about real life rather than plying them with the usual palaver about how to play into the hands of a man, has a host of new distributors. *Moxie* is now available from Armadillo, Coronet News, Ingram, Koen, Macs Magazine,

Media Marketing Research, Miami Books, Small Changes, and Ubiquity. ISSN: 1521-5873.

Publishers Move

Iris Editions (*An Intricate Weave: Women Write about Girls and Girlhood*) has moved. Iris Editions, 4130 La Jolla Village Dr. Ste. 10778, La Jolla CA 92037; 877-254-0444, fax 619-509-4855.

Burning Bush Publications has moved. Burning Bush Publications, PO Box 9636, Oakland CA 95061, new email: <abbyb@earthlink.net>.

Electronic News

A Room of One's Own (Madison WI) has a Web site! Visit them at <<http://userpages.itis.com/room>>.

Cleis Press also has a Web site, which has early announcements of new books and books-in-progress, author event news, and their catalog. Soon the site will also contain book excerpts, reviews, and author interviews. (<<http://www.cleispress.com>>) ○

WRITING WANTED

By Teri Mae Rutledge

Cleis Press is seeking information for a sex-positive resource book on sexuality and disability. The guide will be geared toward a diverse audience — het, bi, and gay; young and old; partnered and single; sexually experienced and new to sexual exploration — and will represent a wide range of disabilities. Participants will complete a questionnaire; alternatively, Cleis can conduct phone interviews. All participants will remain anonymous. Deadline: February 1. For more information, contact Cleis Press, PO Box 14684, San Francisco CA 94114; 415-575-4700, email <fnclais@aol.com>.

Karen X. Tulchinsky is accepting short fiction (1000 words or less) for *Hot and Bothered 2*, the second anthology in a series of lesbian erotic stories. Tulchinsky is seeking stories from around the world that reflect the diversity of desire between women. The book will be published in Fall 1999 by Arsenal Pulp Press. Deadline: February 15. For full guidelines, contact Karen X. Tulchinsky, *Hot and Bothered*, PO Box 100, 1036 Odium Dr., Vancouver BC V5L 3L6,

Canada; email (for queries only!) <kxt@ihermes.com>.

Alyson is seeking real-life lesbian romantic and dangerous stories. If you've had an evening that turned into something that could have been up on the big screen, write about it! Alyson asks that you consider the following questions: Who were you with? What were you doing with them? Where were you and what year was it? When did your seemingly ordinary evening change? Was it danger-filled or romance-filled? How did this change your life? For more information and complete guidelines, write to Dangerous Women, Romantic Women, Alyson Publications, 6922 Hollywood Boulevard Ste. 1000, Los Angeles CA 90028.

A new quarterly literary journal, *Manzanita Quarterly*, is accepting submissions for its Spring and Summer issues. *MQ* has a Northwest focus and accepts poetry and prose writing. Deadline for Spring: February 9. Deadline for Summer: May 9. For complete guidelines, contact Holly Hertel, Associate Editor, *Manzanita Quarterly*, PO Box 1234, Ashland OR 97520; email <hhertel@aol.com>. ○

BESTSELLERS

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November Bestsellers

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1. **Split-Level Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel, \$10.95, Firebrand
2. **We'Moon 1999 Calendar**, \$14.95, Mother Tongue Ink
3. **The Indelible Alison Bechdel: Confessions, Comix, and Miscellaneous Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel, \$16.95, Firebrand
4. **Book** by Whoopi Goldberg, \$6.99, Avon
5. **Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood** by Rebecca Wells, \$14, HarperCollins
6. **Beloved** by Toni Morrison, \$12.95, Plume
7. **Switch** by Carol Guess, \$14.95, CALYX Books
8. **Transgender Warriors** by Leslie Feinberg, \$17, Beacon Press
9. **Menopausal Years: The Wise Woman Way, Alternate Approaches for Women 30-90** by Susun S. Weed, \$9.95, Ash Tree Publications
10. **Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom: Creating Physical and Emotional Healing** by Christiane Northrup, M.D., \$17.95, Bantam
11. **Two Old Women** by Velma Wallis, \$11, HarperPerennial
12. **Between Jesus and the Market: The Emotions That Matter in Right-Wing America** by Linda Kintz, \$15.95, Duke University Press

HARDCOVER

1. **By the Light of My Father's Smile** by Alice Walker, \$22.95, Random House
2. **Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver, \$26, HarperCollins
3. **Notorious Victoria: The Life of Victoria Woodhull, Uncensored** by Mary Gabriel, \$24.95, Algonquin



4. **Cavedweller** by Dorothy Allison, \$24.95, Dutton
5. **Screaming to Be Heard: Hormonal Connections That Women Suspect...and Doctors Ignore** by Elizabeth Vliet, M.D., \$27.50, M. Evans & Co.

Full Circle Books Albuquerque NM November Bestsellers

FICTION

1. **Render Up the Body** by Marian Wesson, \$5.95 pb, HarperCollins
2. **Split-Level Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel, \$10.95 pb, Firebrand
3. **Tree of Red Stars** by Tessa Bridal, \$13.95 pb, Thunder's Mountain Press
4. **Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver, \$26 cl, HarperCollins
5. **Awakening the Virgin** edited by Nicole Foster, \$12.95 pb, Alyson
6. **Bitter Grounds** by Sandra Benitez, \$15 pb, Picador USA
7. **Beloved** by Toni Morrison, \$12.95 pb, Plume
8. **Magician's Assistant** by Ann Patchett, \$13 pb, Harvest
9. **Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood** by Rebecca Wells, \$14 pb, HarperCollins
10. **By the Light of My Father's Smile** by Alice Walker, \$22.95 cl, Random House

NONFICTION

1. **We'Moon 1999 Calendar**, \$14.95 pb, Mother Tongue Ink

2. **From Crisis to Creativity** by Gail Feldman, \$15.95 pb, Book Partners Inc.
3. **1999 Passion Calendar** by Judy Fransconi
4. **Women's Travel in Your Pocket (1999)**, \$14 pb, Ferrari International
5. **One Day My Soul Just Opened Up** by Iyanala Vanzant, \$13 pb, Fireside
6. **Off the Reservation** by Paula Gunn Allen, \$25 cl, Beacon
7. **When Things Fall Apart** by Pema Chodron, \$18 pb, Shambhala
8. **Circle Round: Raising Children** by Starhawk, \$25.95 cl, Bantam Doubleday Dell
9. **New and Selected Poems** by Mary Oliver, \$16 pb, Beacon
10. **Opening the Lotus** by Sandy Boucher, \$12 pb, Ballantine Books

2. **The Way Life Should Be** by Diana Tremain Braund, \$11.95 pb, Naiad
3. **Apparition Alley** by Katherine Forrest, \$5.99 pb, Prime Crime
4. **What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day** by Pearl Cleage, \$12 pb, Avon
5. **Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth — and Their Allies** by Ellen Bass, \$14 pb, HarperCollins
6. **Terminal Velocity** by Blanche McCrary Boyd, \$12 pb, Vintage
7. **Trip Sheets** by Ellen Hawley, \$13.95 pb, Milkweed
8. **Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood** by Rebecca Wells, \$14 pb, HarperCollins
9. **Female Masculinity** by Judith Halberstam, \$12.95 pb, Duke University Press
10. **Beloved** by Toni Morrison, \$12.95 pb, Plume
11. **Let's Face the Music and Die** by Sandra Scoppetone, \$5.99 pb, Ballantine Books
12. **Family Outing** by Chastity Bono, \$24 cl, Little, Brown

Common Language

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November Bestsellers

1. **Split-Level Dykes to Watch Out For** by Alison Bechdel, \$10.95 pb, Firebrand

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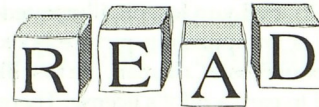
By Linda Bubon
Women and Children First/Chicago IL

I'm writing my column at the beginning of the holiday season, and, as is the case most years, I'm regretting the lack of display space in our kids' section. Here are all these beautiful picture books, fun kits, book-and-doll combos, not to mention Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa books — all terrific for gift giving — being crowded out by all those more serious educational books of biography, history, and multicultural studies. But when you're reading this post holiday, I'll be glad I'm well stocked with those educational books for our annual teachers' sale (on Martin Luther King Day) and Black and Women's History Months. Maintaining a balance between the books kids love, the books parents love, the books subversive aunties delight in, and the books teachers need and want for classroom use is an ongoing challenge for me. Ann and most of our staff would probably say I resolve the dilemma by just ordering too much of everything, but I feel vindicated when I see customers return every holiday season to buy gifts or have a teacher be able to spend all of her \$1000 grant in one place.

Being able to cycle some books into overstock to make room for seasonal stock is helpful, and keeping overstock organized and accessible for special requests is essential. Last year we put out an extra table for Black and Women's History Months, large enough to hold three or four boxes covered in bright kids' wrap, filled with bios, history, and historical stories and folktales. It's very helpful to label boxes by grade or age level, keep boxes at waist level so customers can easily flip through them, and be sure to include some of them in your window displays during January, February, and March. (We offer K-12 teachers a 15

percent discount on books they buy for classroom use out of their own money. We feel this is close enough to compete with B&N's 20 percent discount.

Many of the books in this column will be great for Black and/or Women's History Months, but there are also some other great books from the Fall and Winter lists that I wouldn't want you to miss. Two of my favorites this past Fall are from Knopf. Mavis Jukes (*It's a Girl Thing*) has written a younger girl's edition of her informative pre-teen book, **Growing Up: It's a Girl Thing** (\$10 pb, 0-679-89027-0). This one is forthright and funny and covers topics such as hormones, anatomy, and menstruation. For ages 8–11. Also from the Random family, now in paperback, **The Ballot Box Battle** by Emily Arnold McCully (\$6.99 pb, 0-679-89312-1), should be a favorite for Women's History Month. The story features Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her young neighbor, Cordelia, whom she's teaching to ride and jump horses. But on Election Day, Elizabeth takes Cordelia to the polls with her where she attempts, as she regularly did, to vote. At first embarrassed by Stanton's outspokenness, Cordelia is given a lesson in courage and self-respect, and she comes away from the experience inspired.



"Inspiring" is the word for Diane Stanley's sumptuously illustrated story, **Joan of Arc** (\$16 pb, 0688-14329-6, Morrow-Junior Books). Stanley's text is lively and well researched; the accompanying paintings are inspired by illuminated medieval manuscripts.

Two January paperback releases from HarperCollins about slavery are certainly inspiring, but they're also intriguing and suspenseful. For younger

children (6–9), **Barefoot: Escape on the Underground Railroad** (\$5.95 pb, 0-06-443519-9) by Pamela Duncan Edwards, illustrated by Henry Cole, is a great read-aloud or bedtime book. The animals of the forest guide the fleeing slave to safety while they attack and mislead his pursuers. Cole's paintings are dark and haunting, but not scary. The night, the stars, and the critters are benevolent forces. I've used this story with second and fourth graders, and they really liked it. Edwards' text conveys the "barefoot's" fear and the slave catchers' meanness simply and eloquently. For middle-grade readers, Doreen Rappaport provides plenty of suspense in **Escape From Slavery: Five Journeys to Freedom** (\$4.95 pb, 0-06-446169-6). In gripping stories she recounts the courage and ingenuity of Black Americans escaping slavery against incredible odds. Great for classroom use, the stories are based on primary source material and are accompanied by a bibliography, information on slave laws, and descriptions of Underground Railroad Leaders. Charles Lilly's pictures enhance the text. Teacher's guides are available in packs of 25 (0-06-449392-X).



An excellent novel for middle schoolers that takes place in 1865 and features former slaves claiming and farming land, only to see it taken away from them, is **Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule** (\$16 cl, 0-689-82078-X) by Chicagoan Harriette Gillem Rabinet. Rabinet specializes in middle and junior high school Black historical fiction. **Forty Acres** is from Simon & Schuster Junior, which has quite a few good titles for Black and Women's History Months. **Fly, Bessie, Fly** (\$16 cl, 0-689-81339-2), by Lynn Joseph, illustrated by Yvonne Buchanan, is an appealing picture book biography (ages 4–8) about Bessie Coleman, the first Black woman in the world to earn a pilot's license. There are several good books about Bessie Coleman; this one reminds young listeners that sometimes their wildest dreams can come true. A fictional story stressing courage and perseverance, **Jojo's Flying Side Kick** (\$5.99 pb, 0-689-82192-1) by Brian Pinkney, also stars a beautiful and energetic Black girl. This was a fave of our former bookseller, Jenifer Carns, who studied martial arts. Jojo's worries about earning her yellow belt and her search for inner strength resonated for Jennifer.

Also new in paperback from S&S is one of my favorites from five or six years ago, **The Wise Woman and Her Secret** (\$5.99 pb, 0-689-82381-9) by the late Eve Merriam, illustrated by Linda Graves. This is sure to appeal to the wise woman/goddess-loving folks, and there's a warm colorful cover with a cat on it! For those who like their heroines adventurous and fearless, **Brave Margaret: An Irish Adventure** (\$17 cl, 0-689-81072-5) by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by Sally Wein Comport, is just the ticket. Margaret faces a sea serpent, a giant, and a sorceress; she must use a magic ring and an enchanted sword; and she must believe in her own bravery and strength before she and her true love can return home. I happen to love Irish fairy tales, and this is a fine one; I can't wait to read this to 7–10-year-olds.

Another reasonably appropriate, longer picture book is Deborah Hopkinson's **A Band of Angels: A Story Inspired by the Jubilee Singers** (\$16 cl, 0-689-81062-8), beautifully illustrated by one of my favorites, Raul Colon. This is another post-slavery setting, based on the real history of the Jubilee Singers and the building of Fisk University (then Fisk School). The Jubilee Singers were formed to raise money for the school. Although they began performing pop music of the time, they became very successful — and are to this day — by performing and thus preserving the spirituals from slavery times.

A few other offerings from Simon Junior deserve mention here. Livia Bitton-Jackson's touching and memorable holocaust memoir, **I Have Lived a Thousand Years** (\$4.99 pb, 0-689-82395-9), is in paperback in February, and **My Bridges of Hope: Searching for Life and Love after Auschwitz** (\$17 cl, 0-689-82026-7), her continuing story, will be published then as well. The author, her mother, and brother returned to Czechoslovakia to face the harsh realities of a post-war communist government and the loss of their father. For six years they moved from one temporary shelter to another, rescuing Jewish orphans from rioting Slovak partisans, smuggling refugees to Palestine, and finally engineering their own escape. For ages 11 and up. You may get asked for **A Name On The Quilt** (\$16 cl, 0-689-81592-1) by Jeannine Atkins, illustrated by Tad Hills, and including photos of panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt. I found the story rather contrived, but I don't know of any other kids' books about the quilt, so you may want to represent it.

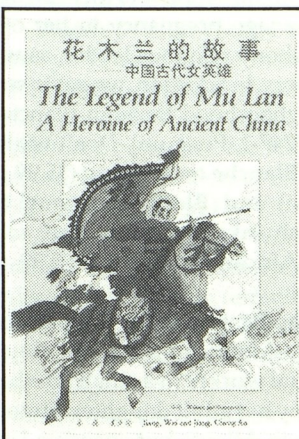
The Penguin/Putnam publishing conglomerate has some strong girls' titles for Spring, including Jean Fritz's **You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?** (\$5.99 pb, 0-698-11764-6), illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, now in paper. This is a short chapter book for ages 7-11 that gives enough details about Stanton so readers can identify with her and enough background so young readers get a picture of the society she was trying to change. Two other fun stories in paperback, ostensibly for that same age, are **The Five Sisters** (\$3.99 pb, 0-14-130334-4) by the consistently delightful New Zealand writer Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Patricia McCarthy, and **Happily Ever After** (\$3.99 pb, 0-14-038706-4), by Anna Quindlen, illustrated by James Stephenson. Excellent anti-princess fare, my twelve-year-old and I read **The Five Sisters** together at bedtime one night and we were both enchanted. This is multi-layered and truly for all ages — storytelling at its best.

Two nonfiction books with flower-power cover designs, for the apparently still-expanding middle-school girls' market, are just out in paperback originals from Penguin. **Body Art** (\$9.95 pb, 1-90188-124-5), by Ted Polhemus, an anthropologist, is a book and kit about body decoration containing bindis, henna stencil, glitter stickers, temporary body paint, and tattoos. **Girl to Girl** (\$4.95 pb, 1-90188-129-6) by Anne Driscoll focuses on relationships, because, the catalog copy tells us, "*Relationships are the most*

important things in the *world*" (emphasis theirs).

For older readers, two great books starring girls will be out in March and April. Lloyd Alexander, a master storyteller whose adventures typically feature boys, introduces Vesper Holly in **The Illyrian Adventure** (\$4.99 pb, 0-14-130313-1). *Booklist* gave this a starred review: "A story that moves at breakneck speed and is filled with delicious details...elegant writing, astute characterizations, and an intelligent heroine." For ages 12 and up, **Dancing on The Edge** (\$4.99 pb, 0-14-130203-8), by Han Nolan features an emotionally disturbed girl being raised by her psychic grandmother. When her father suddenly disappears, she searches for him, losing herself in the quest. Intense and beautifully written, this 1997 National Book Award winner is sure to draw readers in.

One last book you may have missed last fall is a unique offering from World Book Encyclopedia. They've been gradually adding trade titles the last few years and we do well with their book and CD-ROM packages on nonfiction topics (*Ancient Egypt, Electricity, Volcanoes*). To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they've published **Stand up for Your Rights** (\$14.95 cl, 0-7166-0352-7; \$9.95 pb, 0-7166-0353-5), a book about human rights, written, illustrated, and edited by young people of the world. Children express their fears and hopes about peace and human rights, exploring the way forward for our world. ○



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MYSTERIES



By Nan Cinnater
Cape & Dagger, Provincetown MA

It's that time again: African American History Month, followed by Women's History Month! This column contains a roundup of recent African American women's mysteries and feminist historical mysteries; for more titles and ideas on History Month mysteries please check out the January/February 98 *FBN*.

White Chocolate by Elizabeth Atkins Bowman begins with a terrific premise. Taylor James, a biracial TV reporter, infiltrates a white supremacy hate group in Michigan. Her videotaped report on their murderous activities puts the leadership in prison; but when they get out, they threaten to kill her. After a spectacularly suspenseful yet true-to-life opening, the story turns to romance, and we learn way more than we want to know about Taylor's past and present love life. Although it didn't work as a thriller for me, **White Chocolate** attempts two things that are rare and important in contemporary fiction: to deal with the militant, organized branch of American racism, and to explore the everyday experience of a biracial woman. \$23.95 cl, 0-312-86306-3, Forge/St. Martin's.



I loved the neo-noir plot and style of **Rhode Island Red** by Charlotte Carter (reviewed in the November 97 *FBN*), now available in mass-market. This edition has a great cover and a great blurb from *New York Times* mystery reviewer Marilyn Stasio:

"Breezy narrative riffs.... This sassy heroine is something else." (\$5.99 pb, 0-446-60664-2, February, Warner.) I'm happy to see Carter's African American heroine return in the sequel, **Cog Au Vin**. Here New York-based Nanette Hayes, a jazz and poetry-addicted Francophile, actually gets to go to Paris in search of her Aunt Vivian, whose clue-strewn trail leads to an old scam in the Paris jazz clubs and an old murder. (\$22 cl, 0-89296-678-5, February, Warner.) Judging from **Rhode Island Red**, so hip, stylish, and outstanding in a genre full of clones, I'd say these are must-carries.

Another must-carry heroine is the astute, feminist, solidly working-class and proud domestic worker Blanche White, featured in three mysteries by Barbara Neely. The latest of these, **Blanche Cleans Up**, will be out in paper in April, just missing the History months, but Blanche is a treat for all seasons. In her latest adventure Blanche fills in as cook/housekeeper for a Boston Brahmin politician and uncovers lots of dirty linen. Blanche speaks with the Ancestors (her spiritual practice), deals with teenage pregnancy in her own family, and exposes a phony religious leader, as well as solving several murders. In addition, we get to see a lot of her Roxbury neighborhood through Blanche's eyes (\$5.99 pb, 0-14-027747-1, Penguin). Don't neglect the backlist: the classic **Blanche on the Lam** (\$5.99 pb, 0-14-017439-7, Penguin) and **Blanche Among the Talented Tenth**, which takes on class and color consciousness among African Americans (\$5.99 pb, 0-14-025036-0, Penguin).

In **Mama Stalks the Past** by Nora DeLoach, we meet another African American amateur sleuth: Grace Covington, a social worker in a small Southern town. The story is told by her adult daughter, Simone, a paralegal who works in Atlanta but spends a large amount of time away from her job helping Mama

solve mysteries. Like the "Cat Who" books, this is a mystery lite: a simply told story with just enough complications to keep your attention, best reserved for insomnia, a high fever or a hospital stay. Don't read while hungry, though; Simone dwells lovingly on Mama's cooking, and the story often halts completely for detailed descriptions of candied yams, fried chicken, sweet potato pies — you get the idea. (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57721-2, Bantam.) There are three other "Mama" mysteries: **Mama Stands Accused** (\$10.95 tp, 0-87067-873-6), **Mama Saves a Victim** (\$10.95 tp, 0-87067-874-4, both from Holloway House), and **Mama Rocks the Empty Cradle** (\$21.95 cl, 0-553-10703-8, Bantam).

In this column last year, I noted that Paula L. Woods' anthology **Spooks, Spies, and Private Eyes** is the essential resource in African American mysteries, and that still holds true (\$12.95 pb, 0-385-47955-7, Doubleday). Now Woods is publishing her first novel in the genre. **Inner City Blues** introduces Detective Charlotte Justice of the very white, male, racist LAPD. Don't miss it. (\$23.95 cl, 0-393-04680-X, Foul Play Press, distributed by W.W. Norton.)

Eleanor Taylor Bland, the foremother of the Black woman's police procedural, continues her series about single mom and homicide detective Marti McAlister with a new paperback, **See No Evil** (\$5.99, 0-312-96818-3, St. Martin's) and a new hardcover, **Tell No Tales** (\$22.95 cl, 0-312-20067-6, St. Martin's). Others in the series include **Done Wrong** (\$4.99 pb, 0-312-95794-7, St. Martin's) and **Keep Still** (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-96172-3).

Valerie Wilson Wesley brings back Newark private eye Tamara Hayle in **Easier to Kill**. (\$22.95 cl, 0-399-14445-5, Putnam.) Wesley has a gift for believable, noir-ish suspense that has made her a Blackboard bestseller. **No Hiding Place**, the previous Tamara Hayle thriller, is now out in paper. (\$6.99, 0-380-72909-1, Avon.)

Take advantage of Women's History Month to promote historical mysteries (the new trend), especially the many recent feminist historical mysteries. In **The Stalking Horse** by Miriam Grace Monfredo, our heroine Bronwen Lyr, a young Pinkerton agent on her first assignment, uncovers an assassination plot against President-elect Lincoln on the eve of the Civil War. This is closely based on an actual historical incident. (\$5.99 pb, 0-425-16695-3, Berkley.) For feminist

women's bookstores, it's well worth stocking Monfredo's entire Seneca Falls series, a fictional and very feminist survey of mid-19th-century social issues, especially the early women's rights movement. They are all available in mass market paper from Berkley: **Seneca Falls Inheritance** (\$5.99, 0-425-14465-8), **North Star Conspiracy** (\$5.99, 0-425-14720-7), **Blackwater Spirits** (\$5.99, 0-425-14266-9), and **Through a Gold Eagle** (\$5.99, 0-425-16695-3). A number of women requested these backlist titles at our store last summer; they are hard to find in stores and they will sell.

The hot new feminist historical mysteries are Margaret Lawrence's dark melodramas about mid-wife and healer Hannah Trevor, who lives in Maine just after the Revolutionary War. Hannah appears in two paperbacks, **Hearts and Bones** (\$5.99 pb, 0-380-78879-9, Avon) and **Blood Red Roses** (\$6.50 pb, 0-380-78880-2, Avon), and a recent hardcover, **The Burning Bride** (\$23 cl, 0-380-97620-X, Avon). These are also perfect for feminist bookstores.



Regular readers of this column know that I'm in awe of Stephanie Barron, whose uncanny mastery of Jane Austen's style is what makes her "Jane" mysteries so outstanding. Barron is now on her fourth mystery starring a fictionalized but well-researched Jane Austen as sleuth. In **Jane and the Genius of the Place** Austen is off to the Canterbury Races, where she finds a body in a carriage. (\$22.95 cl, 0-553-10733-X, Bantam.) The third Jane Austen mystery, **Jane and the Wandering Eye**, is now available in paper (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57817-0, Bantam). The previous two were **Jane and the Unpleasantness at Scargrave Manor** (\$5.99, 0-553-57593-7) and **Jane and the Man of the Cloth** (\$5.99, 0-553-57489-2).

There's practically a cottage industry these days in mysteries about Queen Elizabeth I. Now out in mass market paperback, Fiona Buckley's **To Shield the Queen** introduces Ursula Blanchard, a lady-in-waiting as well as a kind of Elizabethan

special agent who takes on delicate assignments in a court full of treason and intrigue. (\$6.50 pb, 0-671-01531-1, Pocket.) Lady Ursula returns in **The Doublet Affair** by Fiona Buckley. (\$21 cl, 0-684-83842-7, Scribner.) Then there's **The Poyson Garden** by Karen Harper, in which young Elizabeth herself is the sleuth, long before she becomes Queen of England. (\$21.95 cl, 0-385-33283-1, February, Delacorte/Dell.) Finally, in a more literary, Umberto Eco-ish mode, Patricia Finney's critically lauded **Firedrake's Eye** concerns a plot to assassinate Elizabeth. (\$13 tp, 0-312-18094-2, Picador/St. Martin's.) Finney's new paperback, **Unicorn Blood**, centers around a scandalous private diary kept by the young Elizabeth that could bring down her government. (\$14 tp, 0-312-20039-0, Picador/St. Martin's.)

Other recent historicals culled from this year's columns include **Dead March** by Ann McMillan, a Civil War mystery in which a white woman and a free Black woman cooperate to solve the murder of a slave girl. (\$21.95 cl, 0-670-88147-3, Viking.) In **The Shopkeeper's Wife** by Noelle Sickles, a 19th-century housemaid gets involved in a sensational murder trial in Philadelphia. (\$24.95 cl, 0-312-19333-5, St. Martin's.)



Death and Blintzes by Dorothy and Sidney Rosen is unknown to me, but it certainly seems to fit in a Women's History Month roundup. How often does a Depression-era garment worker (and loyal union member) star in her own mystery? (\$10.95 tp, 0-89733-450-7, Academy Chicago.) Light-hearted but very feminist historical mysteries include **The Ape Who Guards the Balance**, the latest in Elizabeth Peters' comic series about Victorian Egyptologist Amanda Peabody (\$24 cl, 0-380-97657-9, Avon), and **Emperor Norton's Ghost** by Dianne Day, featuring the irrepressible Fremont Jones in 1908 San Francisco (\$21.95 cl, 0-385-48608-1, Doubleday). This is also a

great time to promote **Unpunished**, the newfound mystery novel by early 20th-century feminist Charlotte Perkins Gilman. (\$10.95 tp, 1-5586-1185-1, Feminist Press.)

The theme issue aside, here are a few more interesting new titles for spring. I loved Deborah Crombie's **Dreaming of the Bones** (reviewed in the Summer 98 *FBN*), which considers the suicide — or murder? — of a brilliant woman poet, interweaving past and present in the light of feminist literary scholarship. **Dreaming of the Bones** is now available in paper with great cover blurbs. (\$5.99 pb, 0-553-57931-2, Bantam.) **Kissed a Sad Goodbye** is Deborah Crombie's new novel featuring Scotland Yard team Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James. This looks to be another rich, layered mystery in which the present-day murder of a young woman is intertwined with the story of a child evacuated from London during the Blitz. (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10943-X April, Bantam.)

You might be able to sell **Ashes to Ashes**, Tami Hoag's new serial killer thriller featuring ex-FBI agent, now victim advocate Kate Conlan. Hoag's tense and graphic suspense has become very popular in our store with fans of Cornwell and other harder boiled authors. (\$24.95 cl, 0-553-10633-3, March, Bantam.) Ever popular in our store are Rita Mae Brown's cat mysteries, the latest of which is **Cat on the Scent**. (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-09971-X, March, Bantam.)

Chris Rogers is on the second book in her series about the "other" female bounty hunter, Dixie Flannigan. Unlike Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, Houston-based Dixie is a serious professional with a hard edge, although her narrative voice is funny and colloquial. Dixie debuted in **Bitch Factor**, now in paper (\$5.99, 0-553-58001-9, Bantam), and the new hardcover is **Rage Factor** (\$23.95 cl, 0-553-10660-0, February, Bantam).

On a completely different note, consider Irene Allen's calmly philosophical Quaker mysteries about middle-aged Elizabeth Elliot, Clerk of the Quaker Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In **Quaker Indictment** Elizabeth travels to Seattle, where she teams up with a young woman doctor to find an old friend who has disappeared. (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-96684-9, St. Martin's.) Allen's other paperback in print is **Quaker Testimony**. (\$5.99 pb, 0-312-96424-2, St. Martin's.) ○



MUSIC NEWS

Compiled by Barb Smalley/Ladyslipper Music
Original reviews by Laurie Fuchs, Matt Nicholson,
and Jessica Fields

If you are looking to give your music section a distinctive Women's and/or Black History Month dimension, here are some new and old titles to consider:

Period Pieces: Women's Songs for Men and Women/Peggy Seeger. This important singer-songwriter, from the famous musical and political Seeger family, has given voice to feminist and many other progressive issues for many years. Lest anyone believe these songs are "retro" because we live in a post-feminist world, the liner notes state that "The privileges and rights won in the last three decades were won mostly by and for white younger unmarried middle-class Western women. They have yet to apply to the bulk of human females.... This album speaks of issues that are still close to the lives of women today." Includes her classics "I'm Gonna Be an Engineer," "Different Therefore Equal," "Reclaim the Night," "Carry Greenham Home," "Union Woman II," "Winnie and Sam," and "Nine Month Blues" — 17 songs in all, written over a 30-year period. Tradition 1078.

Ptah the El Daoud/Alice Coltrane. When her magnificent album *Journey in Satchidananda* went once again to out-of-printland, we searched for something worthy to take its place in our catalog and encountered this 1970 gem. Before there was "New Age," this amazing composer and piano/harp instrumentalist was fusing her knowledge of jazz, world music, and Eastern spirituality, creating sounds that were to become the foundations of a genre. Recorded shortly before *Satchidananda*, this album leans a bit more in a jazz direction (a highly melodic one) with

more Western instrumentation. Pharoah Sanders' and Joe Henderson's tenor sax and alto flute accompaniment are split between the two channels in that old-time total stereo way that is so cool. Impulse 201.

Amazing Grace (2-CD set)/Aretha Franklin. This 1972 classic double album, recorded with James Cleveland and the Southern California Community Choir, contains gospel greats such as the title track, "Mary Don't You Weep," and "Climbing Higher Mountains." As *Rolling Stone* said, "She sings like never before on record. ...the sounds of unqualified joy hit with tremendous power." We were led to add this to our catalog by the women at Sisterspace in DC who say they play it "all the time." Atlantic 906.

The Audience with Betty Carter (2-CD set)/Betty Carter. In tribute to her life and gifts to us all, we've brought back this amazing double concert album. Originally issued on LP on her own Bet-Car label, it includes the upbeat and lush "Caribbean Sun," her self-penned "Open the Door," and her in-concert grand finale, "Sounds (Moving On)" (which took up the entire side of one of the LPs). Of all her releases, this essential recording probably comes closest to capturing the dynamism of her spectacular performances. Verve 835684.



To Ella/Odetta. A tribute to Ella Fitzgerald as only Odetta could do! Recorded at the 1996 Kerrville Folk Festival on the anniversary of Ella's death, this 1998 release honors Odetta's and Ella's shared roots in American gospel and folk music. Odetta fans will appreciate the matriarch's always-powerful guitar and voice paying homage to one of the many women singers who've influenced her music. Ella fans will



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appreciate the insight into the musical traditions that inspired the jazz singer. "If ever there was a melting pot in this country, I think it's been in the music," Odetta says during the 27-minute medley, "Suite: Ancestors." And if there ever was a musician who respected the power of that music, it's Odetta. Silverwolf 1012.

The Mother of Us All (2-CD set)/Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson. Capturing the final collaboration between Gertrude Stein (text) and Virgil Thomson (music), which Gertrude didn't live to hear, this very unique 2-CD set presents this work performed by the Santa Fe Opera. Focusing on Susan B. Anthony, the pioneering 19th-century women's rights activist, it's a superb mix of incredible word-play about politics, women and men, and voting rights, set to Thompson's "musical memory book" of gospel hymns, marches, ballads, waltzes, intoned sermons, and tunes derived from rural America. Originally released on LP in 1977, the original 4-track master tapes were meticulously remixed and cleaned. New World 288.

Sing to the Universe Who We Are/ MUSE-Cincinnati Women's Choir. One of the most fabulous

women's choruses in the country (under the direction of Catherine Roma) graces us with their new release. Among the 17 audience favorites included here are Fred Small's "Everything Possible," Holly Near's "Simply Love," Ysaye Barnwell/Kahlil Gibran's "On Children," and Therese Edell's "Take Back the Guns." As a whole, the recording is a shining reflection of the commitment to musical excellence and social change of this feminist choir, which has been going strong since 1982. Muse 2.

And a songbook: **Continuum/Sweet Honey** in the Rock. Subtitled "The First Songbook of Sweet Honey in the Rock," this unique, historic publication (coinciding with their 25th anniversary) features over 200 pages of music and lyrics, biographical essays of the core members, instructions in performing the songs, as well as short explanations of each song — written by the authors themselves. Compiled and edited by Ysaye M. Barnwell, with a foreword by Harry Belafonte, Jr., it is certain to become a collector's item for generations to come and for those who have had the privilege to share in the group's timeless message of human struggle and triumph. Third World Press 211.

Here are more new releases:

Milkman/Phranc. One of our favorite Jewish lesbian folksingers returns with her first full-length album in seven years! Includes the Israeli folksong "Tzena Tzena" (which brings back fond childhood memories of my favorite Weavers album), "Ozzie and Harriet," "They Lied," "Cuffs," and more. Look for a touring Phranc in early 99. Phancy 1.

Real Cowboy Girl/Cowboy Envoy. "The reasons for Cowboy Envoy's origins seem as obscure as the reason that men saddle cows, but this we do know: their rhythms kick like a branded heifer, their harmonies thwart the ambition of singing birds, and their humor makes folks in big Western States pause for a moment." These three yodellin' harmonizin' women present a great program of both classic and original cowgirl tunes: the title track (from the 30s), "High Ridin' Woman" ("She commands and men obey"), Dale Evans' "Happy Trails," their own "Harmony the Cowgirl Way" and many more. They're getting rave reviews; check them out! Niki Viki Music 1.

Smashing the Serene/Rachael Sage. Following the lead of such self-contained contemporaries as Ani

DiFranco, this young New York City artist releases (on her own label, of course!) her second album of lush pop songs that are as catchy as they are emotionally insightful. Inspired by an eclectic mix of influences (including Carole King, Elvis Costello, The Indigo Girls, Ani DiFranco, and Gershwin as well as elements of Irish, Russian, and Middle Eastern music), Rachael creates a unique mix of poetry and melody. Mpress Records 3636.



One Wild Night in Concert/Christine Lavin. Here's a spontaneous example of the hilarity, creativity and rapport for which her concerts are renowned. Among the new songs: "They Look Alike, They Walk Alike," inspired by Dolly the sheep; "National Apology Day," her proposal for world peace; and "The Voice On the Relaxation Tape," a very funny send-up of the New Age movement. Concert favorites include the classic "Sensitive New Age Guys," and her most-requested song, "The Kind of Love You Never Recover From." Even the baton-twirling grand finale is here (minus light sticks)! The album captures what makes her one of the most popular performers on the folk circuit. Christinelavin.com 1.

Radio Quiet/Cris Williamson and Tret Fure. It's a Valentine's Day release! Full of "story songs" (as Susan Frazier tells me) that are likely to have enduring appeal (my own assessment), it includes many concert faves such as "On the Line," "Choices," "Keeper of the Light," and "The John Deere Song." The title track was written about the Jodie Foster film "Contact." And what Cris and Tret recording would be complete without a love song or two, written to each other? A must-have for old fans, and a great intro for folks new to their music. Wolf Moon 5402.

A Meditation for Healing/Libby Roderick. This beautiful, devotional chant for protection and healing (a mantra in an ancient, sacred language from India), written at the request of a friend, is something new for Libby. Let her warm, clear voice and the exquisite melody relax, calm, and heal you — people are using it for everything from massage and meditation to yoga to simply helping them (or their little ones) fall asleep peacefully and wake up renewed! Turtle Island 1005.

Multiculti/Sally Nyolo. Over the years, Sally has crafted a truly unique style that reflects her childhood in Africa and her adult life in Europe. As an activist, a storyteller, and an artist her words are poetic and progressive. The title track in particular, performed in several languages, is a great anthem for our multicultural world; other songs deal with solidarity and racism, ancestors, and environmental issues. Fans of her and Zap Mama's previous work will be excited by the new directions she takes into some even more challenging arrangements here. This is a solid and enjoyable recording from one of the best voices in African music today. Tinder 5400.

Beneath My Touch/Sara McIntosh. If you've been a music-festival attendee, perhaps you've encountered those wonderful "Sara's Shoes" in the merchant area.... Sara's solo piano release proves that her gift is every bit as much with hands as with feet — this music is exquisite! These 18 solo piano compositions are some of the most lovely, sweet, stirring, meditative, evocative melodies we've heard — all beautifully performed. If you like Margie Adam's

See Music, page 127.

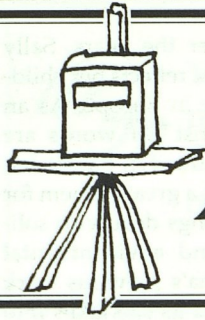
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ART BOOKS

By Tee A. Corinne

Most of you have probably noticed that I organize books by price, with the least expensive listed first — except when a book seems so exceptional that its importance puts it at the top of the list. This is true of two books this month.

The Art of Joan Brown by Karen Tsujimoto and Jacquelynn Baas presents the work of a contemporary West Coast painter (1938–1990) who merged abstract expressionist brushwork with figurative imagery, something many San Francisco Bay–area artists were doing in the late 1950s. Her work evolved in colorful, autobiographical directions and is treasured for its quirkiness and accessibility. \$34.95 pb, 0-520-21469-2; \$60 cl, 0-520-21468-4, An Ahmanson-Murphy Fine Arts Book published by the University of California Press in conjunction with the Berkeley Art Museum and the Oakland Museum.

Lotte Jacobi (1896–1990) was born into a family of photographers in Germany. Jewish, she fled to New York where she opened a studio. Unpretentious and smart, she succeeded through hard work and a gift for capturing personality on film. **Lotte Jacobi: Berlin/New York** by Marion Beckers and Elisabeth Moortgat gives an exceptional overview of her career. \$60 cl, 3-87584-636-2, Nicolai. Distributed by DAP/Distributed Art Publishers.

Funky and wild are great terms for the quilts and cartoons in **Riva: If Ya Wanna Look Good Honey, Your Feet Gotta Hurt** by Ruth Reynolds. Riva is an alter ego for Reynolds who sews vignettes of the trials and joys of suburban married life with kids. \$16.95 pb, 1-57120-048-7, C&T Publishing; 800-284-1114.

Domestic Goddesses by Edith Vonnegut offers hilarious new takes on traditional art history themes, elevating acts like ironing and taking out the garbage

to heroic dimensions. \$17.95 cl, 0-7649-0867-9, Pomegranate.

Two more books are available about the American impressionist painter Mary Cassatt (1844–1926) who spent much of her life in France. **Mary Cassatt: A Life** by Nancy Mowll Mathews is a fascinating, sympathetic, and highly readable study. \$18 pb, 0-300-07754-8, Yale.

Part of Cassatt's appeal is in the sweetness of her imagery and the pastel tones she often used. These are featured in **Mary Cassatt: Reflections on Women's Lives** by Debra N. Mancoff, a gift book with many domestic portraits: women and babies, or women sewing, knitting, or reading. \$24.95 cl, 1-55670-852-1, Stewart Tabori & Chang.



The Alchemy of Possibility: Reinventing Your Personal Mythology, The Artwork and Writings of Carolyn Mary Kleefeld, foreword by Laura Huxley, contains colorful paintings that combine qualities of new age with naiveté. It merges self-help and spirituality, uses clunky language, quotes a lot of male experts, and probably will sell well. Great cosmic cunt cover. \$24.95 pb, 1-886708-03-7, Merrill-West. Distributed by Access Publishers Network; 800-345-0096.

Portraits of Hope: Conquering Breast Cancer, 52 Inspirational Stories, photographs by Nora Feller, text by Marcia Stevens Sherril, foreword by Rosie O'Donnell, is packaged in a boxed set with *Journal of Hope: A Meditative Recordkeeper with Inspirational Thoughts*. **Portraits** is a timely and beautifully produced collection of vibrant images and informative text. Several prominent women (and one man)

are included: Bella Abzug, Linda Ellerbee, Julia Child, Betty Ford, and Nancy Reagan. The subjects are photographed in color, often at their workplaces or out of doors, perhaps surrounded by family. \$24.95 cl, 1-55670-855-6, Wonderland Press/Smithmark.

It is thanks, in part, to the women's movement that quilts have moved into the high art arena. **Harmonies and Hurricanes: Color and Line in Japanese Quilts** by Kumiko Sudo presents innovative, brilliantly colored, dynamically patterned quilts by a contemporary artist. Included is an interview with Sudo and a text which interweaves her memories with cultural history. \$27.95 pb, 0-8442-2661-0, NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, 4255 West Touhy Ave, Lincolnwood IL 60646.

Fabric artist Yvonne Porcella has been working with and writing about cloth-as-art for many years. She co-founded the Studio Art Quilt Associates in 1987. **Yvonne Porcella: Art and Inspirations** is part memoir, part history, and a blaze of colorful, joyous imagery. \$29.95 pb, 1-57120-050-9, C&T Publishing; 800-284-1114.

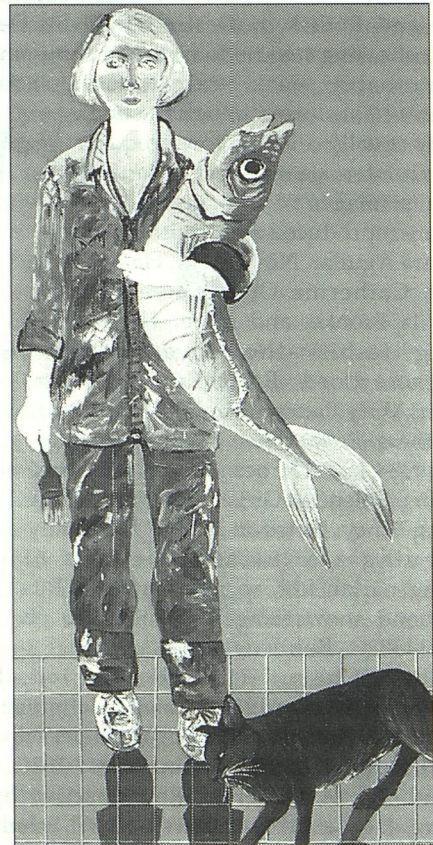
In **Living on a Dream, A Marriage Tale**, award-winning photographer Patt Blue (born about 1943) examines her parents' flawed marriage through photos, narratives, and oral history. Many of the early photos, including nude studies of Blue's mother, were made by Blue's father, an amateur photographer and womanizer. The whole is knit together by Blue's own commentary. \$28 cl, 1-57806-057-5, University Press of Mississippi.

Mariko Mori, with essays by Dominic Molon, Lisa Corrin, Carol S. Eliel, and Margery King, claims that Mori (born in Tokyo in 1967) "has quickly become one of the most innovative and exciting multimedia artists in the world." The book's imagery consists of self-portraits with an extravagant sense of humor. The text comes across as inflated. \$20 pb, 0-933856-57-1, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago/Serpentine Gallery, London. Distributed by DAP/Distributed Art Publishers.

Francesca Woodman (1958–1981) made photographs from around the age of 13 until she committed suicide at age 22. She used her own body, often nude, in many of her images. The black and white pictures combine seductiveness, isolation, and gritty alienation. I have often thought that she must have been molested. Both of her parents were artists. **Francesca**

Woodman edited by Hervé Chandès presents the extraordinary body of work she produced and offers four essays as intellectual frames. \$45 cl, 3-931141-96-9, Scalo. Distributed by DAP/Distributed Art Publishers.

Nell Blaine: Her Art and Life by Martica Sawin is a gorgeous, lush work about a painter (1922–1996) who began working in the abstract 40s and 50s. She developed a loose, figurative style with a sensual presence, present whether treating flowers in a garden, city rooftops in the rain, or friends gathered around a table. Although paralyzed by polio in her late 30s, Blaine — who used a wheelchair for the rest of her life—regained the ability to draw and paint. Although she married briefly, she spent her last 30 years with a woman companion, which is noted in the book. Drawings, watercolors, and oil paintings



Self-Portrait with Fish and Cat by Joan Brown, in *The Art of Joan Brown* (University of California Press)

are complemented by a lucid text and photos of the artist at work and play. \$50 cl, 1-55595-113-9. Hudson Hills, (please note new address) 122 E 25th St., 5th FL, NY NY 10010. Distributed by National Book Network.

Reframings: New American Feminist Photographies edited by Diane Neumaier, foreword by Anne Wilkes Tucker, is now available in paperback. In the November/December 96 *FBN* I wrote that it "is a lavishly produced, highly intellectual, multicultural/multiethnic exploration of the work by many contemporary women photographers." To that I would add that it includes work by openly lesbian photographer Catherine Opie who just won a \$50,000 award. Gives one faith. \$24.95 pb, 1-56639-332-9; \$59.95 cl, 1-56639-331-0, Temple University Press.

The cover of **The Passionate Camera: Photography and Bodies of Desire** edited by Deborah Bright, showing two nude men in a semi-embrace, will probably work against its sales in women's bookstores, though the book is fairly equally oriented toward queer male and female imagery. Many of Brassai's images of lesbians in 1930s Paris are reproduced along with images by Laura Aguilar, Nina Levitt, Hanh Thi Pham, Catherine Opie, Gaye Chan, Kaucyila Brooke, and more. There are strong, lesbian-themed essays by Catherine Lord, Erica Rand, Linda Ditmar, Mary Patten, Elizabeth Stephens, and others. Provocative chapters include "Looking-Class Heroes: Dykes on Bikes Cruising Calendar Girls" and "Not Just a Passing Fancy: Notes on Butch." Especially intriguing are the self-portraits of septuagenarian lesbian photographer Rita Hammond showcasing her work. \$30 pb, 0-415-14582-1, Routledge.

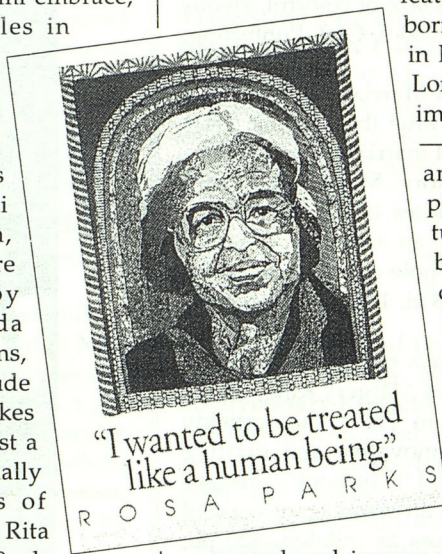
Young, beautiful, and talented, Meret Oppenheim (born in 1913) created a definitive surrealist object (a fur covered teacup), and participated in surrealist exhibitions in Paris in the mid-1930s. **Meret Oppenheim: A Different Retrospective** by Bice Curiger, Jacqueline Burckhardt, Isabel Schulz, and Werner Hofman. \$45 cl, 3-908161-08-0, Edition Stemmler. Distributed by Abbeville.

Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-1879) was a spectacular early portrait photographer who used her family, friends, and household staff as subjects, often dressing them in heroic, mythological, or spiritual garb. **Julia Margaret Cameron's Women** by Sylvia Wolf gives a powerful view of Cameron's work and a particularly compelling account of her life and times. \$49.95 cl, 0-300-07781-5, Yale, in association with the Art Institute of Chicago.

In the pricey but luscious category: **A Covenant of Seasons: Monotypes** by Joellyn Duesberry, **Poems** by Pattiann Rogers, essay by David Park Curry, contains glowing, generalized landscapes juxtaposed with strong, nature-based poetry. \$50 cl, 1-55595-155-4, Hudson Hills, (note new address) 122 E 25th St., 5th FL, NY NY 10010. Distributed by National Book Network.

Between Ourselves: The Photographs of Mari Mahr edited and introduced by Amanda Hopkinson features the work of an artist born in Chile in 1941 and raised in Hungary. Mahr has lived in London since 1972. Many of the images — all black and white — use sharp juxtapositions and fragmented forms. The photographs are very intellectual and visually rich, but the book will probably be difficult to sell given the size (7½" x 8½", 128 pages) and price. \$30 pb, 1-85242-550-4, Serpents Tail. Distributed by Consortium.

Men Defined: Nudes, photographs by Vera Friederich, offers beautifully composed, exquisitely reproduced images which treat male bodies the way women's bodies have traditionally been treated, as lovely passive objects. This is countered somewhat by a few silly images at the end of the book (a man with gun pointed at the viewer or another of a man sticking out his tongue). \$45 cl, 3-908161-44-4, Edition Stemmler. Distributed by Abbeville. ○



Poster of Rosa Parks available from Syracuse Cultural Workers (315-474-1132)

GAY MEN'S LIT FOR FEMINIST BOOKSTORES

By Richard Labonte
A Different Light Bookstores

It's year's end, time for the me-centered column — my ten or so favorite rag books of the year, winnowed down from more than 500 books received at A Different Light during 1998 that had, for the most part, boy-specific intent. The top-100 real-numbers list of what did sell from January 1 to December 31, 1998 is on ADL's Web site, (www.adlbooks.com).

The faves are in no particular order — they're all what I consider musts for a current core gay male bookshelf. The month of publication in 1998 is noted, and so is any available information on paper editions of hardcovers due sometime in 1999.

Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures by Eric Rofes — Perhaps one of *the* most controversial books of the year, this is longtime activist and thinker Rofes' lucid take on how circuit parties, unprotected sex, and a continued celebration of gay male sexuality must be a vital part of any assessment of AIDS near the end of the century; his is a potent, cogent counterpoint to the work of Michelangelo Signorile and Gabriel Rotello, whose clear voices come from the other side of the debate. \$24.95 pb, 1-56023-934-4, April, Harrington Park Press.

Apples by Frank Browning — Here's a quirky delight from the author of *Queer Geography* and *Culture of Desire*, both excellent studies of contemporary American and worldwide communities: a full book on the history, cultivation, and appreciation of apples. Richly informative as well as splendidly written, its juicy pleasure is derived from Browning's own half-life (he's also a National Public Radio commentator) as a Virginia gentleman apple-orchard owner. \$24 cl, 0-86547-537-7, October, Farrar Straus Giroux.

Men Seeking Men edited by Michael Lassell — There's been quite an explosion in recent years in

erotica for men. And it's rare for a book with some unique quality to appear, but editor Lassell has found a neat niche with this anthology of men meeting men through the old-fashioned personal ad and the new-fangled online chat world; and an unusually high proportion of the contributions are literate as well as, well, lignifying. \$15 pb, 1-891305-02-6, October, Painted Leaf Press.

Koolaid: The Art of War by Rabih Alameddine — An extraordinarily rich debut novel by artist Alameddine, who draws on his Lebanese upbringing, his coming to (and out in) America, and his life with AIDS; again, it's a truly original work, written with passion and wisdom and a sweeping sense of humor and irony. \$23 cl, 0-312-18693-2, March, Picador.



Uprising by Randy Boyd — The merit of this rowdy read lies in its author's vision: he saw a need for a good action-adventure written for the Black as well as gay reading communities, and when publishers were cool to the concept, published it himself... and it was number seven on A Different Light's bestseller list for October/November. Its plot? A Prince-type character, a Micheal Jordan-type character and a David Geffen/Barry Diller-type character team up to finance a gay vigilante group intent on avenging hate crimes fomented by a Jesse Helms-type character, with the twist that the rock star falls madly in love with the white FBI agent who has infiltrated the organization. \$11.95 pb, 0-9665333-7-2, October, West Beach Books. Available from Alamo Square.

Hours: A Novel by Michael Cunningham — The most recent work by the author of *Golden States*, *Home at the End of the World*, and *Flesh and Blood*

boosts him from the ranks of pretty good writer to that of way excellent writer. With Virginia Woolf and her Mrs. Dalloway character as starting point, Cunningham weaves stunning strands of three stories together — Woolf's own life and death, a post-World War II housewife whose secret pleasure is reading, and a contemporary Greenwich Village lesbian whose friends think of her as a Mrs. Dalloway. \$22 cl, 0-374-17289-7, November, Farrar Straus Giroux.

Where the Rainbow Ends by Jameson Currier —

There have been a number of novels in the past couple of years following queer lives from pre-Stonewall to the mid-90s (*Now It's Time to Say Goodbye* by Ethan Mordden, *Like People in History* by Felice Picano, *Farewell Symphony* by Edmund White, *Plays Well With Others* by Allan Gurganus); what makes Currier's first novel special is the intimacy of its telling, its braiding of the lives of lesbians with the lives of gay men, and its sense that, after all the pain of dying friends, there's a future of love and hope. \$22 cl, 0-87951-892-8, December, Dutton.

Short History of a Prince by Jane Hamilton —

There's a subgenre of gay male-focused fiction written by women, presumably not gay (Laura Argiri's *God in Flight* and Ann Patchett's *The Magician's Assistant* come to mind); here is another, the coming-to-terms story of a man with dreams of the world of dance who settles, like many, for a mundane but no less rewarding life; it's my favorite sort of fiction: work that's based not on the autobiographical, but springs mainly from the imagined, with sturdy research to buttress it. \$22 cl, 0-679-45755-0, April, Random House; \$12.95 pb, 0-385-47948-4, Bantam, April 99.



Tomato Red by Daniel Woodrell — Here's another straight-authored novel, this one with a rich and complex, sexually ambiguous character, the drop-dead gorgeous teenager. He and his trick-turning mother and a dead-ended 19-year-old sister live in the Ozark backwoods of West Table, Missouri. With prose as gorgeous as the image conjured of young could-be country queer Jason, this is a fab read. \$20 cl, 0-8050-5577-0, July, Holt.

The Empress is a Man: Stories from the Life of Jose Sarria by Michael R. Gorman — The personal sure is the political, and the historical, in this anecdote-rich as-told-to account of the life of Sarria, founder of the Imperial Court (subculture of the gay male community), and a very early drag artist and activist.... He ran for the board of supervisors in San Francisco way back in 1960 and made a respectable showing. \$19.95 pb, 1-56023-917-4, June, Harrington Park Press.



The Burning Plain by Michael Nava — The most recent of Nava's Henry Rios series (*Little Death*, *Goldenboy*, *Hidden Law*, *Death of Friends*) sustains the wisdom, passion, and irresistible plotting of his series, certainly the best gay-themed mysteries of the past decade. Here, Rios is living after the death of his lover and, as always, confronting homophobia with the logic of law and the passion of love. \$5.99 pb, 0-553-58085-X, February 99, Bantam.

American Homo: Community and Perversity

by Jeffrey Escoffier — Such a smart book: Escoffier, founder in the mid-1980s of the late and much-lamented magazine *Out/Look*, traces the growth of the gay community from urban subculture to vital, vibrant, and still-evolving place at the core (and on the fringes) of contemporary American culture. He blends the articulate and the erudite, mixes the cultural and the political, the personal and the intellectual with fine style. \$17.95 pb, 0-520-20633-9, University of California Press, September.

Both Feet Planted Firmly on the Ground by

John McNeil — The most recent in Father McNeil's ruminations on gays within his (Catholic) church is part spiritual advisor, part autobiographical journey, part prognosis for the future of queers of faith. \$18 pb, 0-664-25808-5, August, Washington Square Press.

Savage Love by Dan Savage — Culled from half a decade of sex-advice columns, this is a book highly heralded and equally hated. Like Rofes, Savage challenges the orthodoxy of sex in the midst of the current age; beyond that, he writes with wicked and smart style and has crafted a hugely readable synthesis of Ann Landers, Isadora Allman, and the campiest of

See Gay Lit, page 126.



SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



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

Ace

Now available in paperback is **Rose Daughter** by Robin McKinley. McKinley returns to the story of Beauty and the Beast twenty years after her first novel, *Beauty: A Retelling of the Story*, which also focused on the tale. "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." —Summer 98 *FBN*. \$5.99 pb, 0-441-00583-7.

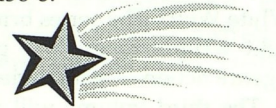
Eighth in the Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter series, **Blue Moon** by Laurell K. Hamilton continues to build on the fantasy elements in Anita's life, bringing together vampires, werewolves, wereleopards, necromancy, witches, demons, black magic, magical sex, and more (!) for a wild and often bloody romp through the Tennessee woods. Due to the fact (or despite it?) that her current and former boyfriends are a vampire and a werewolf, respectively, Anita has held on securely to her own very human identity. However, when an investigation uncovers pure Evil, the contact sparks her own powers which are quite closely tied to her preternatural lovers. Anita must finally confront her self-doubts about her own humanity and her place on the Good vs. Evil spectrum. \$6.99 pb, 0-441-00574-8.

Avon

Black Swan, White Raven edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling is the fourth volume in this successful series of retold fairy tales, now out in paperback. The collection includes stories by Karen Joy Fowler, Nalo Hopkinson, Nancy Kress, Joyce

Carol Oates, and many others. \$13 tp, 0-380-78621-4.

A skillful exploration of culture's impact on identity, Maureen F. McHugh's **Mission Child** is told from the perspective of a woman whose life is repeatedly shattered and rebuilt. The novella on which this novel is based (*The Cost to Be Wise*) was nominated for a Hugo award, and the expanded story is even better. \$20 cl, 0-380-97456-8.



Bantam Spectra

Linda Nagata's **Vast**, the sequel to *Deception Well*, continues the story of the after-effects of an ancient galactic war which still wreck havoc on the human civilizations who chance upon them. Handily interweaving nanotechnology, bioengineering, virtual reality, and alien ecologies, Nagata explores the complex relationships between individual and community. The opportunities for manipulation, storage, and retrieval of virtual identities in cyberspace complicate these relationships further still. \$5.99 pb, 0-553-57630-5.



Edgewater Press

Flying Cups and Saucers: Gender Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy, edited by Debbie Notkin and The Secret Feminist Cabal brings together most of the winning and short-listed short stories from the first five years of the James Tiptree, Jr., Award. The Tiptree Award recognizes fantasy and science fiction that explores and expands gender. \$45

limited edition cl, 0-9629066-9-7; \$18 tp, 0-9629066-8-9. Edgewood Press, PO Box 380264, Cambridge MA 02238; email (bookorders@sf3.org).

HarperPrism

Something of a cross between Joan Slonczewski's *A Door into Ocean* and Kim Stanley Robinson's Mars trilogy, **Blueheart** by Alison Sinclair delves into the murky ethics of those who wish to terraform the water planet Blueheart. Those who struggle to maintain the planet's ecosystem generate an equally murky plan to develop a new species of aquatic humans who can survive in the planet-wide ocean. \$6.50 pb, 0-06-105820-3.

Overlook Press

Bending the Landscape: Science Fiction edited by Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel is the second volume in the series beginning with the Lambda Award-winning collection, *Bending the Landscape: Fantasy* (White Wolf). The series brings together gay and straight writers to explore gay and lesbian themes in genre fiction — with varied results, mostly successful. The third volume will focus on horror. \$26.95 cl, 0-87951-856-1.



Pocket Books

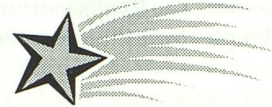
One of *Publishers Weekly's Best Books of 1997* and winner of the Nebula Award for best novel, **The Moon and the Sun** by Vonda N. McIntyre, is now available in mass-market paperback. Set in the court of Louis XIV in 17th-century France, the novel focuses on both a young woman who fights to practice her "natural philosophy" and the mysterious sea monster her brother captured for the king. \$6.99 pb, 0-671-56766-7.

Seven Stories Press

Readers of Octavia Butler's fiction have been eagerly awaiting **Parable of the Talents**, the sequel to *Parable of the Sower*. Set on a near-future Earth in which ecological and social deterioration dominate the landscape, the teenage protagonist begins to formulate a spiritual philosophy, which she believes can help humanity live in harmony with the world. \$24.95 cl, 1-888363-81-9.

Warner Aspect

Fans of Mercedes Lackey and Anne McCaffrey will enjoy **Diplomacy of Wolves**, the first volume of a dark fantasy series from Holly Lisle. *Locus* describes Kait Galweigh as "a much put-upon protagonist with unusual talents" — including shapeshifting and diplomacy. Her talents prove necessary in both her quest for an ancient magical artifact and her altercations with other magical folk vying for power and protection in preparation for the coming battle. \$12.99 tp, 0-446-67395-1. ○



Older Girls, continued from page 29.

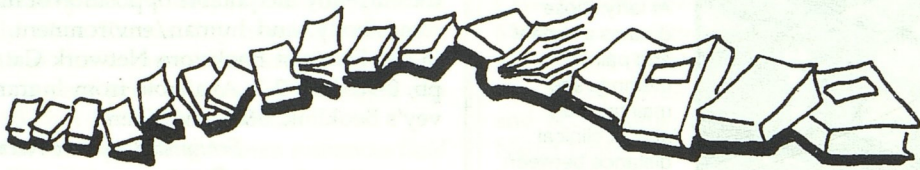
Girlhood Journeys is another series from Simon & Schuster. \$5.99 each pb.

The Herstory series (ages 7–10) by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler is from Silver Burdett Press. \$3.95 each pb.

Historical Novels, Ages 13 and up

- **Beloved** by Toni Morrison. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28062-1, Plume.
- **Betsey Brown** by Ntozake Shange. \$10 pb, 0-312-13434-7, Picador USA.
- **Brown Girl, Brown Stones** by Paule Marshall. \$10.95 pb, 1-558611-49-5, The Feminist Press. Distributed by Consortium.
- **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker. \$6.99 pb, 0-67-172779-6, Pocket.
- **My Antonia** by Willa Cather. \$5.95 pb, 0-395-75514-X, Houghton Mifflin.
- **Obasan** by Joy Kogawa. \$10.95 pb, 0-385-46886-5, Anchor.
- **Rumors of Peace** by Ella Leffland. \$14 pb, 0-06-091301-0, HarperCollins.
- **The Serpent's Gift** by Helen Elaine Lee. \$12 pb, 0-684-80160-4, Scribner.
- **Tracks** by Louise Erdrich. \$13 pb, 0-06-097245-7, HarperCollins.
- **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston. \$13.50 pb, 0-06-091650-8, HarperCollins. ○

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Teri Mae Rutledge

Magazine News

The zany and violent Hothead Paison and her droll feline sidekick, Chicken, are back! *Hothead Paison*, *Ishoo* #21, came off the press in December. As Giant Ass says, it's "20 pages of fun! Lizards, gambling, Chicken in a basket! And anger, anger, anger!!" Issues are available direct from the publisher and cost \$1.92 wholesale, \$3.50 retail. Pre-paid or COD orders only. Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 1242, Northampton MA 01061; email: (HeyHothead@aol.com). —TMR

Innisfree Press

Innisfree is releasing tenth anniversary editions of Judith Duerk's two bestselling books: **Circle of Stones** (\$13.95 pb, 1-880913-36-4) and its companion volume, **I Sit Listening to the Wind** (\$13.95 pb, 1-880913-37-2). These books encourage women to recognize the "ancient feminine" and talk about the journey that all women share. **Circle of Stones** is "indebted to the women who have gone before, supportive of the women who struggle today, and linked with the women of the future." **I Sit Listening to the Wind** tells women how to balance their masculine yang and feminine yin energies. Innisfree reports combined sales of over 200,000 for the two old editions.

Innisfree is inviting feminist booksellers to help solicit contributions for the third book in the series, *The Circle Continues*, scheduled for release in 2000. This anthology will seek to answer the following question: "How might your life have been different if, though every stage of your life...birth, puberty, adulthood, old age...you had been received, affirmed, and sustained by a 'circle' of older, wiser

women?" Stores are also invited to host a "Circle" evening. Innisfree Press is also offering co-op money for store newsletters and promotions (contact Consortium for co-op requests on these titles). In January Innisfree will send Feminist Bookstore Network members a promo pack, including a poster, submission forms for the anthology, a reading group guide, and promotional ideas.

Innisfree Press, 136 Roumfort Rd., Philadelphia PA 19119; 215-247-4085, email (innisfree@aol.com), Web (www.innisfreepress.com). Distributed by Consortium. —TMR

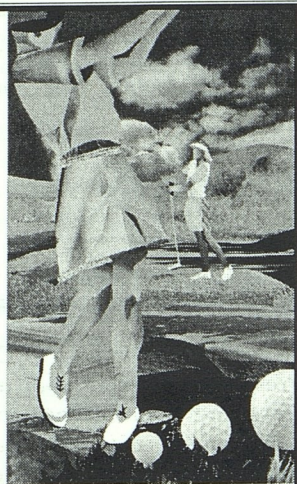
Javelina Books

The Emperor Has a Body: Body-Politics in the Investigation by S. Elise Peebles is a creative and accessible investigation into the ways Western dualistic



Hothead Paison, Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist
by Diane DiMassa (Giant Ass Publishing)

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A NOVEL BY NANCI LITTLE

At twenty-five, Jordan Bryant was a rising star on the LPGA tour. At forty, those dreams a distant and painful memory, she maintains an almost clinical distance between herself and the people she meets at Catawamteak, the grand resort on the coast of Maine where she is Director of Golf . . . until she meets Gillian Benson.

Widowed and left wealthy by a husband "the whole town knew was an abusive, philandering bastard," Gillian comes to Maine in search of a piece of summer, or perhaps a summer of peace: to Catawamteak, with its acres of oceans and tides of sweet-mown grass . . . openness with as few limits as her newfound freedom.

First Resort is a meticulous exploration of the growth of the bonds of affection, love, and friendship between women.

"As she did with her earlier novels, *Thin Fire and The Grass Widow*, Nanci Little creates a completely credible universe, peoples it with unforgettable individuals, and invites us along for the emotionally charged ride. *First Resort* is an extraordinary exploration of friendship between a lesbian and a straight woman. Little's characters become our friends too, women and men who live on in our memories and in our hearts."
— Deborah Peifer, *Bay Area Reporter*

"She captures the physical worlds — of the fairways, the clubhouse, of high society elegance — and the emotional worlds — of fear, of confusion, of friendship — with precision. Little distinguishes between what characters say and what they keep to themselves, and those distinctions reveal the facades that people use to maintain propriety or to survive. . . . Don't let the golf scare you away from this read. Even if putt-putt under the windmills is the closest you'll ever come to a round of eighteen, *First Resort* offers more than a lesson in teeing up. And if you are a golfer, it may improve your short game."
— N. Boutilier, *Lambda Book Report*

ODD GIRLS PRESS 1-800-821-0632

thinking has denigrated us all. The author proposes dethroning the emperor through the use of a model in which true healing power lies in the space "between" the currently inequitable opposition of male/female, mind/body, and human/environment. Advertised in the Feminist Bookstore Network Catalog. \$16.95 pb, 0-9654418-2-2. Available from Ingram, BP, Hervey's Booklink, B&T, and Koen.

—Feminist Bookstore Network Catalog



Naiad Press

Oregon P.I. Cassidy James is back in Kate Calloway's *Sixth Sense*, another harrowing thriller from the bestselling author of *First Impressions* and *Fifth Wheel*. Cassidy's ex-lover, psychologist Maggie Carradine, has just witnessed two separate, brutal murders, and the gruesome clues intensify Cassidy's fear that the killing has just begun. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-228-3, February.

A dance with an old friend, nothing more. What could be the harm in that? (Yeah, right!) In Marianne Martin's romantic *Dawn of the Dance*, art student Moni Matteson seeks the healing touch that only another woman can give. She finds it first in her friend Paige Flemming, a star athlete with an unknown past and a questionable future. Martin also wrote *Love in the Balance* and *Legacy of Love*. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-229-1, February.

Novelist Julia Watts is the award-winning author of *Piece of My Heart* and *Phases of the Moon* ("...a remarkable piece of fiction." —*Bay Area Reporter*). In order to keep her child, Lily enters a marriage of convenience with her Bugle Boy Jeans-wearing, trust fund-spending, gay neighbor Ben. The couple suffer from serious *Wedding Bell Blues* as they discover the outrageous perks and pitfalls of compulsory heterosexuality. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-230-5, February.

Omaha's Bell is the latest historical romance from Penny Hayes, beloved author of *Country Lights/City Candles* and *Now and Then*. Alone and heartbroken in the wilderness that was 19th-century Nebraska, Keeley Delany has only one desire — to escape this heartless place forever. Only one desire, that is, until she meets the town's newest addition — beautiful Englishwoman Prudence Jane Morris. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-232-1, March.

It's no mystery why readers find Janet McClellan's Tru North series so realistic: the author has more than 25 years of experience in law enforcement. In **Chimney Rock Blues**, a routine assignment turns deadly when Kansas City homicide detective Tru North and the witness she's sworn to protect become the unwary prey of a pair of deranged cop killers. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-233-X, March.

Author of the captivating lesbian romances *Gold Fever* and *Dream Lover*, Australian Lyn Denison warms up the winter with **Silver Threads**. Since the unexpected breakup of her six-year relationship,



Publisher of the Sarah Aldridge Novels

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

NINA IN THE WILDERNESS (HD)	1997	\$18.00
NINA IN THE WILDERNESS	1997	\$11.95
AMANTHA	1995	\$10.95
MICHAELA	1994	\$10.95
A FLIGHT OF ANGELS	1992	\$9.95
KEEP TO ME STRANGER	1989	\$9.95
MAGDALENA	1987	\$9.95
MISFORTUNE'S FRIEND	1985	\$8.95
MADAME AURORA	1983	\$7.95
THE NESTING PLACE	1982	\$7.95
ALL TRUE LOVERS	1978	\$8.95
CYTHEREA'S BREATH	1976	\$6.95
TOTTIE	1975	\$6.95
THE LATECOMER	1974	\$6.95

You can now join the many readers who have welcomed these novels over time and who still cherish them in their hearts and on their bookshelves.

Visit our website:

<http://home.switchboard.com/SarahAldridge>

Send for our catalog: **A&M Books**

P.O. Box 283, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 • 1-800-489-7662

Melanie Jamieson has been unable to drag herself out of an ever-deepening depression. Her mother arranges for her to stay with their former neighbor, Crys Hewitt, never suspecting that as a teenager, Melanie was smitten with the sensuous older woman. \$11.95 pb, 1-56280-231-3, March.

Naiad books are available from the publisher and Bookpeople, Login/Inbook, Ingram, et al. The Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302; 1-800-533-1973.
—Naiad Press

Naiad Video

The Real Ellen Story is an intimate look at Ellen DeGeneres' decision to "out" both herself and her TV sitcom character. Stars Anne Heche, Laura Dern, Melissa Etheridge, Oprah Winfrey, Gina Gershon, etc., etc. Street date: December 15. \$29.95, 52 minutes. Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302; 1-800-533-1973.
—Naiad Video

Seal Press

Another America: Otra America, poetry by Barbara Kingsolver, is available in an audio editon read by the author. As the blurb says, "Whether exploring the intricacies of the human heart, bearing witness to resistance to war and violence, or limning the moments of grace in daily life, Barbara Kingsolver stands as one of the great chroniclers of American society." \$12.95 audio, 1-58005-009-3, 82 minutes. Seal Press, 3131 Western Ave. #410, Seattle WA 98121; 206-283-7844. Distributed by PGW.
—TMR



The Women's Press, UK

In **Fat and Proud**, Charlotte Cooper articulates the rights and demands of fat women. This vibrant and angry book reclaims the word "fat," describes the evolution of the fat rights movement, and insists on a fat-positive culture as an alternative to hatred. This book demonstrates the extent of fatphobia in society, shows how the fear of being fat oppresses all women, and how fatphobia encourages discrimination against fat women in healthcare. The book also challenges the common notion that fatness is linked with ill health or eating disorders, and exposes the dangers of dieting and the cult of thinness. Fat women describe their experiences of

discrimination and pain, but also talk about their affirmations of positive self-image and esteem. **Fat and Proud** represents a coming to power of the fat rights movement and of the activists involved in it. It is a book that challenges stereotypes and changes perceptions, a book that will bring about major change. The Women's Press, Ltd., 34 Sutton St., London EC1V 0DX. Distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret VT 05053; 800-423-4525.

—*The Women's Press, U.K.*



Wolfe Video

It's in the Water is set in the small southern town of Azalea Springs, where the country club still sets the rules. Here, being a member of "The League" is a must, and only hair dressers and interior designers are supposed to be gay. A frenzy breaks out when a tipsy comment starts a rumor that the local drinking water turns you gay. This unexpected spark adds fuel to already smoldering fires as the religious and socially righteous begin to join forces. The combination becomes the catalyst for residents who must now face or deny their own realities in this outrageous comedy with a queer little twist. \$29.95, 90 minutes.

Wolfe Video is proud to re-release **Together Alone**, the triumphant first feature from P.J. Castellaneta, the creator of *Relax It's Just Sex*. **Together Alone** is an epic conversation between two men who have gone home together for a one night stand. Beautifully shot, the film captures the thrill, alienation, and vulnerability of a chance encounter between two men. \$19.95, 87 minutes.

In **Such A Crime**, Skip, the top agent of a band of lesbian eco-terrorists, puts her organization in jeopardy with her indiscreet sexual behavior. Wounded and at risk, she must hide out at a safe house where she is tended to by the beautiful Jenn. Jenn wants a normal life and one other thing — Skip. From the producer of *Goodbye Emma Jo*. \$29.95, 45 minutes.

Academy Award-winning short **Trevor** presents a touching as well as darkly funny view of a teenager's path to self-discovery. Mocked by classmates and branded a "fairy," Trevor ultimately has what it takes to be a diva in training. "...a little gem" —*The New York Times*. \$14.95, 23 minutes.

More Tales of the City brings us more hilarious "Tales" based on Armistead Maupin's classic series set in San Francisco during the 1970s. \$99.95, 3 tapes.

In **High Art** Syd (Radha Mitchell), a beautiful young assistant editor at a prestigious photography magazine, is struggling to further her career. Unexpectedly, she discovers that Lucy Berliner (Ally Sheedy), a once-famous photographer, is living in the apartment above her. Withdrawn from the art world, Lucy is reawakened by Syd who offers her the chance to escape her drug-filled environment and revitalize her career. Before Syd can assess the moment, she is drawn into Lucy's seductive and dangerous mix and forced to make choices she never imagined. \$99.95, 142 minutes.

The rise and fall of literary great Oscar Wilde — from celebrated London socialite to banished pariah — is unflinchingly detailed in **Wilde**, a richly-textured dramatic masterpiece. \$99.95, 116 minutes.

—*Wolfe Video* ○



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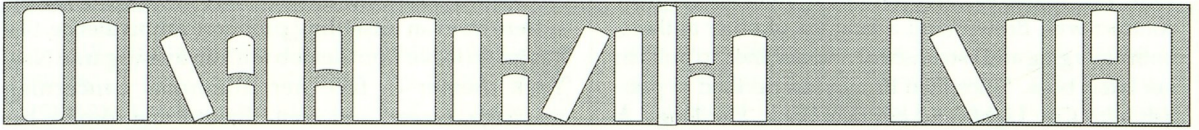
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FROM THE SMALL PRESSES



By Teri Mae Rutledge

In **Bessie Smith**, Jackie Kay mixes fact and fiction, poetry and prose as she relates the tempestuous life of one of the greatest blues singers who ever lived. She chronicles Bessie's early years of poverty in Chattanooga, her time spent with Ma and Pa Rainey in the Moses Stokes Traveling Show, her rapid rise to fame and fortune, her disastrous marriage to Jack Gee, her many lesbian affairs, her raucous and wild lifestyle on the road in her famous yellow Pullman railroad car, her slide from popularity during the depression years, and her eventual tragic death in a car crash in Clarksdale, Mississippi. From the book: "Bessie Smith lived an epic life. Her life could be painted on a broad canvas. She was big in stature, size and influence. She was *the people*. This ability to write songs, to record songs and perform songs that touched the heart of everyone who listened to her is what has kept her alive for so many years. She was her time. She totally reflects her time. She had a huge pair of lungs and could fill a massive hall with her voice." **Bessie Smith** is a part of Absolute Press' Outlines series, which explores the various ways in which homosexuality has informed the life and creative work of gay and lesbian artists, writers, singers, dancers, composers, and actors of our time. **Bessie Smith** is one of two woman subjects so far in the series — there are four other books profiling men — but the book is gorgeous, interspersed with black and white photos. \$9.95 pb, 1-899791-70-1. The Absolute Press, Scarborough House, 29 James St. West, Bath, Somerset, England BA1 2BT; 01225-316013, email (sales@absolutepress.demon.co.uk). Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Stewart, Tabori, and Chang, 115 West 18th St., NY NY 10011.

In her debut poetry collection, **News of Home**, Debra Kang Dean brings us news not only of her native Hawai'i, but of the territory of the heart as well. The landscapes Kang Dean explores are familiar ones — family, first loves, departures, and death — but they are made fresh through her insight. **News of Home** is divided into four sections: "Immigrants," "The Corsage," "Homing Pidgin," and "Catch and Release." The poems in the first three sections center around Kang Dean's experience as the daughter of Korean and Okinawan parents in Hawai'i — an outsider by virtue of ancestry, but an insider by virtue of birth. The poetry in the final section explores life after leaving Hawai'i and moving to the mainland. Foreword by Colette Inez. \$12.50 pb, 1-880238-66-7. BOA



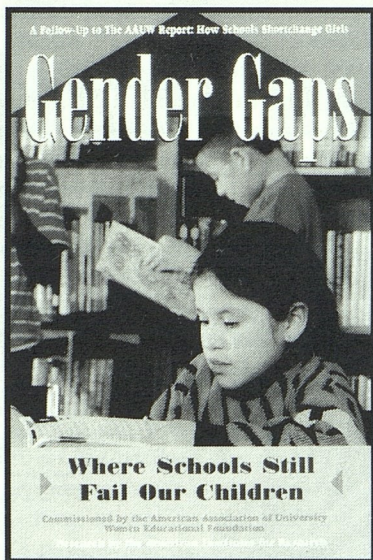
LP cover in *Bessie Smith* (Absolute Press)

Editions, 260 East Ave., Rochester NY 14604; 716-546-3410. Distributed by Consortium.

The incomparable Rebecca Brown is back! Late in 1997, her publisher, HarperCollins, reneged on their contract with Brown (and a long list of other authors, both emerging and established) and declined to publish her latest book. Since then Brown has decided to publish with City Lights and her new book, **The Dogs: A Modern Bestiary**, is finally available. The nameless narrator of **The Dogs** lives in a studio apartment with a pack of Doberman pinschers. The dogs, led by the cruel, charismatic bitch named Miss Dog, alternate between being brutal attack animals and loyal companions, between being real and otherworldly. Some chapters draw upon the ecstatic and horrifying visions of Christian mystics, others take place in the landscapes of familiar fairy tales, still others in the banal settings of late-night pick-up bars or suburban picnics. The narrator uneasily inhabits these worlds until the dogs force her to take irrevocable action. *The New York Times* said of Rebecca Brown: "A strange and wonderful first-person voice emerges from the stories of Rebecca Brown, who

strips her language of convention to lay bare the ferocious rituals of love and need." As always, Brown's latest promises to be edgy, stark, and utterly original. \$10.95 pb, 0-87286-344-1.

Babette Bliss, the modern heroine of **Urban Bliss**, suffers from an unsettling problem: ambivalence. She has taken leave from her job with an avant-garde New York theater to face her dilemmas concerning marriage, career, and soul. Should she forgive her philandering husband, George Harrison, an Iowa-raised corporate lawyer with an uncanny resemblance to Babette's favorite Beatle? Is it time, in fact, for her and George to have a baby? Or should she have an affair? She is thrown into even deeper confusion when her leather-clad therapist decides to give up her practice to become a rock star. Wherever Babette looks, she finds abandonment. So can she really desert her theater, at a time when the company is faced with eviction? To sort things out, she decides to live by herself — only to team up with an unexpected roommate. Filled with subtle irony and insight, **Urban Bliss** takes up age-old problems and sheds a 90s light on them. \$9.95 pb, 0-87286-339-5.



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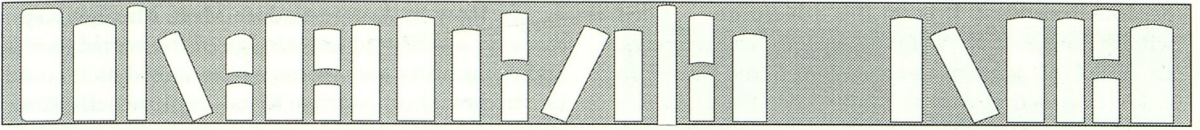
- An update to the report that drew national attention to the unequal treatment of girls in America's schools
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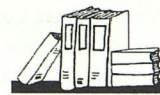
Fresh Tracks: Writing the Western Landscape edited by Pamela Banting showcases fifty writers who journey into the West — a West that's tough-minded and large-spirited, seductive and perceptive. This anthology includes essays, memoirs, short fiction, poetry, and song lyrics that explore people's connection to the ecology, culture, history, flora, fauna, weather, and terrain of the Canadian West. Don't be put off by the regional focus — there is some wonderful work here. Though it includes contributions from both men and women, the majority are women — even in the "Cowboyography" section, from which comes a fabulous epic poem by Hilary Peach called "Outlaw Girls." "...and when Honey lit out/on the highway that day/her hair restless with salal/and her skin streaked/with screaming amanitas/she couldn't stop thinking/about all the other outlaw girls/covered in hornets and sorrow/and as she drove/along that dusty road/she started seeing them/everywhere rolling naked/over the heartland." —from "Outlaw Girls." \$18.95 (C\$21.95) pb, 1-896095-42-9. Polestar, PO Box 5238, Station B, Victoria BC, Canada V8R 6N4. Distributed in the U.S. by Orca Books, PO Box 468, Custer WA 98240; 800-210-5277, email: <orca@pinc.com>.

Veteran novelist, Lambda Literary Award-winner, and visionary founder of Seal Press, Barbara Wilson, presents **Salt Water and Other Stories**, a brilliant new collection of sensuous tales of women coming together and drifting apart. Each story is marked by fully realized characterizations, accessible intellectual themes, and passionate writing. The title piece explores the relationship between an American professor and a Swedish-German painter where love may be a delusion, romance, or obsession. In "Is This Enough for You," two women are torn between what

may be profound love and the ties each has to an unsuspecting lover. In "Archaeology" the remains of a childhood home become the catalyst for the introspective examination of changing values. **Salt Water and Other Stories** promises to be another excellent title from a well-known lesbian/feminist author. \$11.95 pb, 1-55583-486-8.

Aimée and Jaguar by Erica Fischer, translated by Edna McCown, is out in paperback. HarperCollins inexplicably let go of the paperback rights of this Lambda Award-winning biography, and Alyson Publications smartly snapped them up. **Aimée and Jaguar** is the true story of Lily Wust, the wife of a Nazi officer, and Felice Schragenheim, a Jewish woman living underground in Berlin, and the passionate love affair they shared in the face of danger and death. By interviewing Lily Wust and other survivors and investigating letters and historical records, Fischer examines the relationship between Lily and Felice with clear eyes. She has a remarkable lack of sentimentality, and in fact is able to refrain from expressing her opinions on Lily, Felice, and the affair until the most interesting chapter (in my opinion), the epilogue. \$12.95 pb, 1-55583-450-7.

Alyson Publications, PO Box 4371, Los Angeles CA 90078. Distributed by Consortium.



In **The Promised Land** by Ruhama Veltfort, the search for a better life by a group of Jewish immigrants in the mid-1800s becomes the embodiment of the longing — physical, familial, and spiritual — people feel for home. Yitzhak, the son of an orthodox rabbi in the shtets of Poland, flees to the New World with his young wife, Chana, to escape religious persecution and suspicion about his powerful charisma and fervent beliefs. Settling with his followers under the patronage of a wealthy family in the mercantile splendor of golden-age St. Louis, Yitzhak is driven by recurring vision to lead his family and his flock on a

perilous trek west. It is on this adventure — filled with Indians, settlers, religious zealots, true believers, and all of the dangers and grandeur of the American wilderness — that Yitzhak's faith is tried and Chana's more pragmatic beliefs are tested against both the journey and its resolution. \$23.95 cl, 1-57131-022-3. Milkweed Editions, 430 First Ave. N. Ste. 400, Minneapolis MN 55401; 612-332-3192. Distributed by PGW.

In **Extremities** Kathe Koja corrodes convention as she elaborates on the fears and fantasies that live in the dark. Her tales are frantic journeys into the extremities of existence. "Reminiscent of Poe or Calvino...Koja uses her considerable gift for sensory description to real purpose." —*Publishers Weekly*. As the blurb says, "Koja plunges a hypodermic under the skin of reality as we know it — and extracts disturbing experiences both natural and otherworldly." Koja provocatively and urgently weaves the erotic with the horrible, the mundane with the unthinkable, and creates narratives that challenge conventional perceptions. These stories are seeped with sexuality and forbidden longings — they violate boundaries between the mortal and the deceased, the sacred and the profane, the sane and the unbalanced, human and superhuman. \$20 cl, 1-56858-122-X. Four Walls Eight Windows, 39 West 14th St. Rm. 503, NY NY 10011. Distributed by PGW.



The Village Voice said that Luisa Valenzuela, the author of the short story collection **Symmetries** (translated by Margaret Jull Costa), "explores the terrain where love and violence, erotic pleasure and death exist perilously close to each other...Valenzuela plays with words, turns them inside out, weaves them into sensuous webs." **Symmetries** captures the absurdity of life. Valenzuela's view of life captures the imagination because it is so far from reality: cops in Buenos Aires are not afraid of dogs, Latin lovers in cafés do make moves in the game of courtship, hotels in Venice overlook canals. These stories are also subtle parables on the art of fiction — they engage both mind and heart. \$14.99 pb, 1-85242-543-1, Serpent's Tail/High Risk Books, 4 Blackstock Mews, London N4 2BT. Distributed by Consortium.

In **How to Accommodate Men**, Marilyn Krysl displays a sardonic knowledge of the world as it is and a haunting awareness of the world as it could be. In her short stories Krysl explores divisions between lovers, friends, and countrymen and finds new ways to reestablish broken connections. "Krysl writes about women who take care of men and get taken for granted in return. She looks at child abuse from the viewpoint of both male and female children, and she explores the different coping mechanisms that boys and girls develop." —*Library Journal*. At times dreamlike and archetypal, at others topical and ironic, Krysl mourns the fragmentation of the modern world and celebrates the compassionate gestures that offer hope. \$13.95 pb, 1-56689-076-4. Coffee House Press, 27 North 4th St., Minneapolis MN 55401; 612-338-0125. Distributed by Consortium.

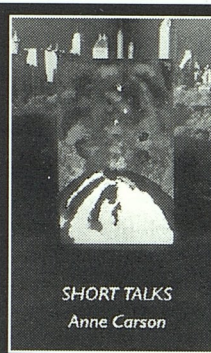
The Bride's House by Dawn Powell, first published in 1929, is the story of a woman who loves two men but finds happiness with neither. Sophie is eager for her marriage to Lynn, believing he will be her anchor and help her in containing her restless and passionate nature. But then she encounters Jerome and allows herself to be seduced. The novel becomes a study of "good" and "bad" as defined by the conventions of time and place — shortly before the turn of the century in rural Ohio. Dawn Powell's portrait of Sophie — a woman who is sharply aware of her own needs and inner conflicts — is a surprisingly modern one for a novel written nearly 70 years ago. In the introduction, Tim Page suggests that Sophie's struggle and her ambivalence may have mirrored the married Powell's involvement with the playwright John Howard Lawson at the time she was writing **The Bride's House**. \$14 pb, 1-883642-78-7. Steerforth Press, PO Box 70, South Royalton VT 05068; 802-763-2808. Distributed by PGW.

Friendship, love, and isolation — both self-imposed and involuntary — and the quiet bravery of one woman are at the heart of **A Glassful of Letters** by Evelyn Conlon, one of Ireland's most distinctive and energetic voices. Set in the recent past, a period of unprecedented re-examination for Ireland, the novel follows the lives of a diverse but tightly knit Dublin community. Their interlinked stories reflect

the pressures and pleasures generated by rapidly changing social values. Shifting from narrative to a chain of lively, intimate correspondences, **A Glassful of Letters** is both warm and intelligent. \$16.95 pb, 0-85640-618-X. The Blackstaff Press Limited, 3 Galway Park, Dundonald, Belfast BT16 2AN, Northern Ireland. Distributed by Dufour Editions, Inc., Chester Springs PA 19425; 610-458-5005, fax 610-458-7103.

In the historical romance *Call No Man Master*, Tina Juárez introduced readers to Carmen Rangel. Now in **South Wind Comes** Juárez writes about her granddaughter, Teresa Sestos y Abrantes. Refusing to follow her mother and brother to a luxurious life in Europe, the strongly independent Teresa instead joins her grandmother in the underground effort to transport U.S. slaves to freedom across the Rio Grande. When she falls in love with Jorge Montemayor, a young idealist committed to the republican cause in Mexico, Teresa finds herself immersed in events on both sides of the border. Soon Teresa is in the undesirable position of holding information that could alter the course of the Civil War — at the cost of ruining her brother. **South Wind Comes** chronicles a volatile time in Texan and Mexican history, painting a vivid portrait of both the U.S. Civil War and Mexico's continuing struggle for democracy under the leadership of Benito Juárez. \$14.95 pb, 1-55885-231-X.

From Piñata Books comes **The Year of Our Revolution**, in which Judith Oriz Cofer presents a kaleidoscopic vision — reflected in shimmering bits of poetry, fiction, fable, and essay — of growing up as seen through the eyes of a young woman known as both María Elenita and Mary Ellen. As she matures and learns of the world outside her home, Mary Ellen's imagination moves from school and Supergirl to dreams of rock music, political protest, and first love. Oriz Cofer crystallizes what María Elenita's saddened Mamá calls "the worst year in the history of parents and children...the year of our revolution." For as the heroines of this book learn about the "secret" lives of their parents and other adults, they soon find that the taste of freedom is not always sweet. In her season of rebellion, Mary Ellen/María Elenita awakens to sensuality with her "boy-poet" Gerald and the "soldier-boy" Pito. And she finally learns that even in



Short Talks by Anne Carson

Lyric sermons. Riddle poems that consist only of answers, *Short Talks* is elegiac, perceptive, droll. This is Anne Carson's first collection of poems, first published in 1992.

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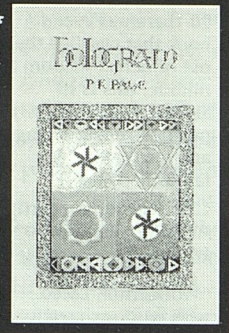
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Hologram: A Book of Glosas by P.K. Page

Celebrated poet P.K. Page pays homage to poets as diverse as D.H. Lawrence, Sappho, Pablo Neruda, Dylan Thomas, Mark Strand, in 14 elegant, intricate poems. First published in 1994, fourth printing.

Brick Books

\$12.95



America, the land of the free, there is always a price to pay for love. \$16.95 cl, 1-55885-224-7.

Also from Piñata is **Rina's Family Secret**, the fourth novel in Gloria Velásquez' Roosevelt High School series, which features a group of students who must individually face troubling personal and social worries such as violence, racial prejudice, and emerging sexuality (both heterosexual and homosexual). In this honest, emotional novel Velásquez shows us the pain and sadness one young woman must confront when she witnesses her abusive stepfather beating her mother so badly that her mother must be hospitalized. Soon after, her mother allows the stepfather to return home. Rina explodes with anger and flees to the home of her grandmother. Rina seeks to keep her situation hidden from friends, worries about her two younger siblings (still at home), and tries unsuccessfully to ease her fears through alcohol, denial, and directionless rage — until, with help, she finds a better way. \$9.95 pb, 1-55885-233-6.

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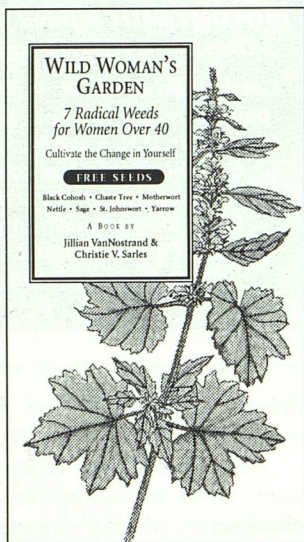
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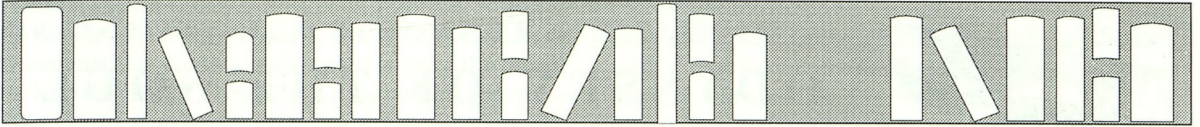
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The Ladies from St. Petersburg: Three Novellas by Nina Berberova, translated by Marian Schwartz, is the fourth book by the Russian writer to be translated into English. "Berberova (1901–1993) grew up before the Russian Revolution, lived through it, knew everyone, went into exile with the poet Khodasevich, became a luminary in Parisian émigré circles, and was judged to be Russia's most important novelist before the advent of Nabokov...what a life." —*The Washington Post*. **The Ladies from St. Petersburg** contains three stories which chronologically paint a picture of the dawn of the Russian revolution, the flight from its turmoil, and the plight of an exile in a new and foreign place — all of which Berberova knew from her personal experience. In the title story the protagonists are taking a vacation, unaware that their lives are about to be irrevocably changed. In "Zoya Andreyevna," an elegant, privileged woman in headlong flight, just one train ride ahead of the fighting, falls ill among unfriendly strangers. In "The Big City" an emigrant lands in surreal New York City, a place that is not yet — and may never be — home. \$19.95 cl, 0-8112-1377-3. New Directions, 80 Eighth Ave., NY NY 10011. Available from BP.

Excitability, from Dalkey Archive's American Literature Series, collects the best of Diane Williams' bold, often hilarious stories of love, sex, death, and the family. Her vignettes push boundaries — boundaries of form, of convention, and of sanity. "An operation worthy of a master spy, a double agent in the house of fiction... Diane Williams conjures up an edgy, jagged state of mind, a lurching consciousness in a culture of speed and amnesia." —*The New York Times*. Since her debut in 1990 with *This Is about the Body, the Mind, the Soul, the World, Time, and Fate*, Williams has been forging her own innovative tradition. She also wrote *Some Sexual Success Stories Plus Other Stories in Which God Might Choose to Appear* and *The Stupefaction*. \$13.50 pb, 1-56478-197-6. 1-4: 25%, 5+: 45%. Dalkey Archive Press, Illinois State University, Campus Box 4241, Normal IL 61790; 309-438-7555. Distributed by University of Chicago Press Distribution Center.

Strong Family Ties: The Tiny Hawkins Story by Debra Winegarten and Ruthe Winegarten is the



account of Dr. Tiny Hawkins, who went from picking cotton to become a successful Dallas businesswoman. "It is Dr. Leona 'Tiny' Hawkins' particular distinction to be the first African-American of either sex to own and operate a nursing home in Texas.... But her remarkable life story is an even better reason for reading **Strong Family Ties**, Hawkins' oral history as taken down and shaped by Ruthe and Debbie Winegarten.... She tells the Winegartens of her hardscrabble early days working as a domestic in Dallas, lean times when she subsidized her low pay by developing a sideline in card reading. The future doctor of business administration also once threatened an abusive white female employer that she would 'cut Mississippi on your ass and dot every "i".' Hawkins was equally combative as a businesswoman. As she recounts of one reticent lender, 'I told the bank, "You need to let me have the money in this community just about as bad as I need it. So if you don't let me have it, you may see twelve beds on one corner and twelve wheelchairs on one corner and six beds on the other corner. And I'll call Channel 4, 5, and 8 and tell them to come out and see how the other half live."' Hawkins got her money." —*D Magazine*. \$19.95 cl, 1-9610340-9-2. 40% Sociosights Press, Box 1662, Austin TX 78767; 512-326-5051, email <sociosight@aol.com>.

One of the most meaningful ways to interrogate gender is to explore what men and women think and say about local constructions of masculinity and femininity and how these affect their daily lives. Sylvia Chant and Cathy McIlwaine, editors of **Three Generations, Two Genders, One World: Women and Men in a Changing Century**, draw on surveys using people-centered methodology to illuminate these constructions. This book demonstrates what gender means to people and how it is perceived to be changing in nine countries — Barbados, Canada, Cyprus, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands, St. Vincent, and Zimbabwe. Shedding new light on understandings of gender, sexuality, family,

fertility, education, and employment — and how these have changed — this book also identifies a range of barriers to women's equality with men across the globe. \$22.50 pb, 1-85649-604-X. Zed Books Ltd., 175 Fifth Ave., NY NY 10010. Distributed by St. Martin's Press.

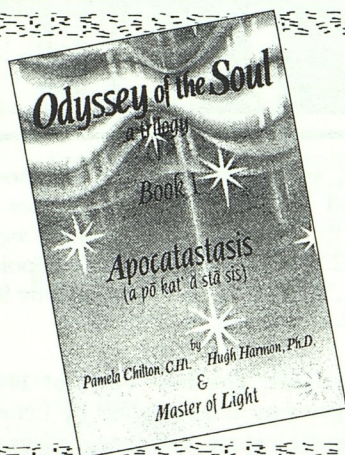
Women Playwrights: The Best Plays of 1997 edited by Marisa Smith includes *Analiene* by Lynne Alvarez, *Defying Gravity* by Jane Anderson, *Tatjana in Color* by Julia Jordan, *The House of Vernarda Alba* by Federico Garcia Lorca, and *Escape from Paradise* by Regina Taylor. "The remarkable plays in this volume have struggled to come to life in a marketplace that is still dominated by the masculine aesthetic. And they have succeeded. They are poetic and true. These plays represent the feminine aesthetic at its highest...." —Marsha Norman, from the introduction. \$19.95 pb, 1-57525-131-0.

Also available: **Women Playwrights: The Best Plays of 1996** edited by Marisa Smith. \$19.95 pb, 1-57525-111-6.

Smith and Kraus Inc., PO Box 127, Lyme NH 03768; 800-895-4331, fax 603-922-3348. Available from B&T.



Search: A Handbook for Adoptees and Birthparents, 3rd Edition by Jayne Askin is a reference book for those searching for their birth parents, for those considering a search, or those wishing to know more about the plight of adoptees and birth parents. While directed to the searcher, this book also offers the non-searcher insight into the problems and choices that the searcher faces. **Search** provides listings and information that cover a wide range of topics and issues relating to adoption search. Among them are deciding to search, getting moral support and handling resistance from family and friends, the costs of searching, search and support groups, search consultants, intermediaries, dealing with adoption



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agencies and the courts, reunion registries, finding and using various types of records, using computer resources to search, and ending the search. It also includes a searcher's checklist, sample letters and forms, print and non-print reference sources, a reading list of adoption-related books, and a state-by-state listing of addresses and applicable state laws. \$24.50 pb, 1-57356-115-0. Oryx Press, 451 Blackhawk Trail Ste. 300, Eldersidge IA 52748; 800-279-6799, fax 800-279-4663. Available from Ingram.

Shadow Mothers: Stories of Adoption and Reunion by Linda Back McKay collects the stories of ten mothers who gave up their newborn children between the 1930s and the 1970s. Often hidden in their pregnancy and shamed into silence, these women had little recourse but to cope alone with their pain and loss. But the connection to their children never went away, creating the need for eventually finding and meeting their lost children. These ten stories chronicle, in the women's own words, their anguish, their loss, and finally their reunion with their children. \$14.95 pb, 0-87839-129-0. North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc., PO Box 451, St. Cloud MN 56302; 320-253-1636. Distributed by Adventure Publications, 800-678-7006, fax 612-689-9039. Available from The Bookmen, Inc., 612-359-5757, fax 612-341-3065.

Give Me Life by Marie Vincent is the story of a middle-aged woman who discovers that she has

breast cancer. The novel explores cancer's impact on her life and her relationships with her two adult daughters. Vincent said that the loss of her mother to breast cancer motivated her to write the book. \$10.95 pb, 0-9664515-0-3. Majors Publishing, 717-209 Independence Blvd. Ste. 418, Virginia Beach VA 23455; 757-490-7119.

The Endometriosis Survival Guide by Margot Joan Fromer offers hope and help to the more than 15 percent of women who have this condition. This self-help guide arms women with the information they need to deal with unresponsive doctors, sort through treatment options, and make informed decisions. Fromer empowers women to take an active role in managing their condition by providing them with the most up-to-date medical information. The guide also covers how the condition is diagnosed, the information needed to evaluate treatment options, traditional and alternative coping strategies, dealing with concerns of infertility, finding a knowledgeable and understanding physician, and using new pain management techniques. \$13.95 pb, 1-57224-152-7. New Harbinger Publications, 5674 Shattuck Ave., Oakland CA 94609; 510-652-0215. Distributed by PGW.

Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World by Joanna Macy, author of *Despair and Personal Power in the Nuclear Age*, and Molly Young Brown explores the psychological,

economic, and social sources that stifle our response to the planet's danger signals. The authors, both environmentalists, maintain that people have the power to heal the world. They offer a program for groups — "The Work that Reconnects" — for self-healing and empowerment. Macy and Brown contend that a "Great Turning" is gaining momentum today through the choices of countless individuals and groups. This propulsion of concern into action is, they claim, the greatest movement in human history, and it will save the earth. \$16.95 pb, 0-86571-391-X. New Society Publishers, PO Box 3064, Stony Creek CT 06405; 203-488-7310. Distributed by Consortium.

More than \$40 billion is owed in back child support nationwide. In **Make the Jerk Pay: Tracking Down a Deadbeat Dad and Getting Child Support** Louis Rose and Roy Malone shows women how to do just that. The book covers how to follow his trail, track him on the Internet and other online services and search for him using driver's records, CD-ROMs, computerized phone listings, directories, people finders, military locators, data search firms, or

investigators. It also tells readers how to extract overdue money: by getting his credit and financial data, going after his income and assets (and finding hidden assets), withholding his wages, dogging him if he works for cash, slapping a lien on him, seizing his assets, or hiring a private collector. Included are stories of mothers who wouldn't give up, who beat the odds and collected child support. \$14.95 pb, 0-9606846-3-8. Albion Press, 9701 Twincrest Dr., St. Louis MO 63126; 888-787-4477. Distributed by the Independent Publishers Group.



The Kid's Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose — and Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action by Barbara Lewis is newly revised and expanded. According to Ralph Nader, **The Kid's Guide** is "the liveliest practical civics book for young adults in print." Filled with all-new tales of young people who are making positive change by making a difference in themselves and in their commu-

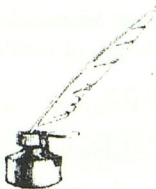
Single Woman Homesteader

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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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nities, **The Kid's Guide** teaches skills kids need to identify an issue, devise a plan, gather information and allies, and get involved. Includes step-by-step instructions, practical information, and a wealth of book, organization, and Internet resources to demonstrate how to write letters and press releases, get and give interviews, make speeches, perform surveys, contact and work with government representatives, initiate laws, gain representation on local boards and councils, and more. Author Barbara Lewis is a public school teacher who has won numerous awards for her excellence in writing and teaching and for her students' projects. \$16.95 pb, 0-915793-29-6. Terms start at 40% and go up from there. Free Spirit Publishing Inc., 400 First Ave. North, Ste. 616, Minneapolis MN 55401; 612-338-2068, email (help4kids@freespirit.com). Available from BP, Ingram, The Bookmen, and B&T.



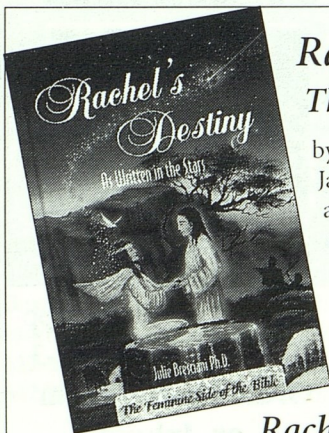
Inspired Philanthropy: Creating a Giving Plan by Tracy Gary and Melissa Kohner is a guide to match your giving with your values. Gary and Kohner have created a feminist-oriented guide for affecting social change. No matter how much or how little you have to give, you'll learn how to create a giving plan that will make your charitable giving catalytic. Then, through clear text and substantive exercises, you'll learn how to align your giving with your deepest

values — to help bring about the very changes you want. \$20 pb, 1-890759-03-1. 40%. Chardon Press, PO Box 11607, Berkeley CA 94712; 510-704-8714.

The Encyclopedia of Women's History in America by Kathryn Cullen-DuPont has been released in paperback and in a new edition. This reference encompasses over 400 years of American history. \$22.50 pb, 0-306-80868-4. 1-4: 20%, 5-20: 40%. Da Capo Press, 233 Spring St., NY NY 10013; 212-620-8000. Available from all major wholesalers.

Divorce Yourself: The National No-Fault Divorce Kit by Daniel Suitarz, Attorney-at-Law, is available in a new edition. This step-by-step guide shows how to obtain a legal divorce without hiring a lawyer. \$24.95 pb, 0-935755-63-2. 1-5: 40%, 6+: 45%. Nova Publishing Company, 1103 West College St., Carbondale IL 62901. Distributed by the National Book Network: 800-462-6420.

In What Do Dogs Dream? illustrated by Alison Bechdel, author Louise Rafkin considers what dogs are *really* dreaming. Her humor, coupled with the detailed illustrations by Bechdel, provide a variety of entertaining answers to an age-old question. \$6.95 cl, 0-8362-6774-5. 50%, min. 6. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 4520 Main St., Kansas City MO 64111; 816-932-6700, fax 816-931-5018. Available from all major wholesalers. ○



Rachel's Destiny AS WRITTEN IN THE STARS
The Feminine Side of the Bible

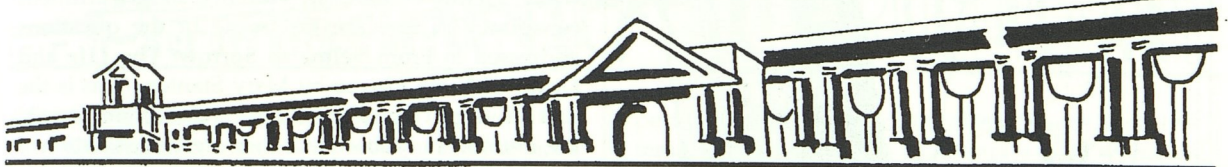
by Julie Bresciani, Ph.D. is a compelling new version of the Old Testament story of Jacob, as seen through the eyes of his beloved Rachel. Written by a Jungian analyst and astrologer as a healing for our culture, this story of brother against brother, and sister against sister, explores the spiritual/ political battle between good and evil which has sealed the warlike fate of Earth. Learn about earth's secret past, the ancient sisterhood of Seerers from the star system Sirius, who were the Birth Mothers of the heroes of the Bible, and who the Angels of the Bible really were.

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Rachel's Destiny AS WRITTEN IN THE STARS is available through

Astraea Ciara Publishing Co. 888-291-5202 1971, PO Box 118, Devils Tower WY 82714

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES



By Mev Miller
Amazon Bookstore/Minneapolis MN

Mev's Picks for Black History Month:

African-American Pioneers in Anthropology edited by Ira Harrison and Faye Harrison probes the careers of 13 early African American anthropologists. Using intellectual biographies, the Harrisons detail achievements the anthropologists made despite struggles with both latent and blatant racism. There may not be enough here for women's stores (only 5 of the 13 biographies are women), but Zora Neale Hurston, Caroline Bond Day, and Katherine Dunham are among those studied. \$21.95 short discount pb, 0-252-06736-3, University of Illinois Press.

From Stumbling Blocks to Stepping Stones: The Life Experiences of Fifty Professional African American Women by Kathleen Slevin and C. Ray Wingrove does not present biographies of these women; rather, it presents composites of their life experiences to provide an insightful study of African American women's experience in the U.S. From church influence to education, from work environments to experiences of being pioneers and role models, these are stories of survival and resistance. Additionally, this book speaks to a population rarely studied — African American women professionals. \$17.50 pb, 0-8147-8100-4, NYU Press.*

The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism: Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement by Julie Roy Jeffrey explores the involvement of ordinary women — Black and white — in the most

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.

significant reform period prior to the Civil War. This is a complex portrait of antebellum women's activism, tracing its changing contours over time. \$18.95 pb, 0-8147-4741-0, NYU Press.**

And don't forget these previously reviewed titles: **The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender and Freedom** by Barbara Smith. \$23 cl, 0-8135-2573-X, Rutgers University Press. Reviewed in the September/October 98 *FBN*.

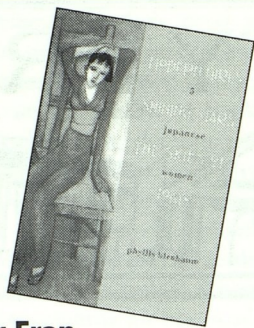
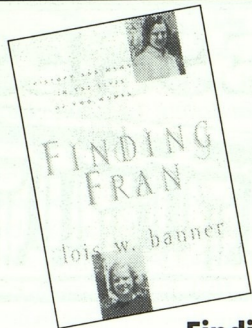
Fighting Words: Black Women and the Search for Justice by Patricia Hill Collins. \$18.95 pb, 0-8166-2377-5; \$47.95 cl, -2376-7, University of Minnesota Press. Reviewed in the September/October 98 *FBN*.



Mev's Picks for Women's History Month:

What an incredible book! From tree huggers to U.N. activists, **Women Pioneers for the Environment** by Mary Joy Breton portrays women from around the world who are leading the struggle to preserve the Earth. It's an inspiring collection of women finding solutions to overwhelming problems created by male-dominated technological societies. Whenever you're feeling disheartened by the state of the environment, pick up this book and get inspired to mobilize! \$26.95 cl, 1-55553-365-5, Northeastern University Press.*

When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973 by Leslie Reagan provides a clear and readable history of abortion in the U.S. Suitable for young women and anyone unfamiliar with how a woman's right to have a legal abortion was attained — especially now as abortion doctors are being killed and clinics are



Finding Fran

History and Memory in the Lives of Two Women
Lois W. Banner

The true story of a lifelong friendship between Banner and her childhood friend, now a devout Sufi Muslim.

"A tightly focused, illuminating look at women's lives and the many ways in which the personal is indeed political." —*Publishers Weekly*

272 pages • 25 photos • \$24.95, cloth

NEW THIS FEBRUARY

**Modern Girls, Shining Stars,
the Skies of Tokyo**

Five Japanese Women
Phyllis Birnbaum

Fascinating portraits of five women who refused to conform to traditional Japanese notions of femininity.

"Their longing for happiness and freedom, their passionate and often willful characters, and the divided reactions these women inspired in their peers come alive." —Kyoko Mori, author of *Polite Lies*

240 pages • 5 photos • \$24.95, cloth

NOW IN PAPER

Like Bread on the Seder Plate

Jewish Lesbians and the Transformation of Tradition
Rebecca Alpert

224 pages • \$16.50

Lesbian Desire in the Lyrics of Sappho
Jane McIntosh Snyder

347 pages • \$17.50

Between Men~Between Women: Lesbian and Gay Studies
Lillian Faderman and Larry Gross, editors

columbia.edu/cu/cup Columbia University Press



bombed. \$17.95 pb, 0-520-21657-1, University of California.**

Dedicated civil rights worker or troubled housewife? Victim of random violence or government conspiracy? These are just some of the questions addressed in **From Selma to Sorrow: The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo** by Mary Stanton. This is the first full-length biography to examine the controversial life, murder, and subsequent character assassination of the only white woman honored at the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. Also appropriate for Black History Month. \$24.95 cl, 0-8203-2045-5, University of Georgia Press.* *Editor's Note: This title was also included in the FB-Net Fall Catalog.*

Hailed by Angela Davis as "a hard-hitting indictment of late-20th-century global capitalism and its insidious high-tech partners in crime," **Global Obscenities: Patriarchy, Capitalism, and the Lure of Cyberfantasy** by Zillah Eisenstein tackles important global issues. She reflects on issues of community and responsibility while asking urgent questions pertaining to democracy and citizenship for women, girls, and marginalized peoples who continue to struggle against webs of power. \$17.95 pb, 0-8147-2206-7; \$50 cl, -2205-9, NYU Press.**

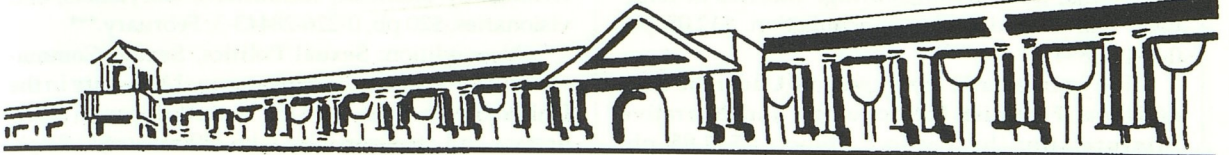
Now available in paperback: **Women Scientists in America, Volume I: Struggles and Strategies to 1940** by Margaret Rossiter, (\$17.95, 0-8018-2509-1, Johns Hopkins University) and **Volume II: Before Affirmative Action, 1940-1972** by Margaret Rossiter, (\$17.95, 0-8018-5711-2, Johns Hopkins University).***

Cornell University Press

The Madwoman Can't Speak: Or Why Insanity Is Not Subversive by Marta Caminero-Santangelo offers an alternative explanation for the compelling nature of the figure of the madwoman, allowing a critical shift from the dangerous, ultimately disempowering notions of the subversive potential of madness. To do so, Caminero-Santangelo considers the writings of Morrison, Welty, Plath, Garcia, Millet, and others. \$14.95 short discount pb, 0-8014-8514-2; \$39.95 cl, -3514-5.***

Indiana University Press

Of interest: **Kate Chopin's Private Papers** edited by Emily Toth and Per Seyersted. \$49.95 cl, 0-253-33112-9.



Johns Hopkins University Press

Of interest to stores with strong theater sections: **Madame La Mort and Other Plays** by Rachilde, translated and edited by Kiki Gounaridou and Frazer Lively. \$15.95 pb, 0-8018-5762-7; \$35 cl, -5761-9.*

MIT Press

Unequal Pay for Women and Men: Evidence from the British Birth Cohort Studies by Heather Joshi and Pierella Paci argues that equal pay will change women's economic status. Though the study focuses on Britain, the results are of interest to labor economists in other countries as well. \$30 cl, 0-262-13340-7.***

Now available in paperback: **Imagining Desire** by Mary Kelly. \$20, 0-262-61141-4. Reviewed in the March/April 97 *FBN*.***

NYU Press

Whiteness is not solely a category of pigmentation, but also a system through which certain individuals are granted greater degrees of social acceptance than others. This important understanding is one of many observations made in **Whiteness Visible: The Meaning of Whiteness in American Literature and Culture** by Valeria Babb. Babb illustrates how being white became synonymous with being American and the cost of this notion to a multiracial nation. \$17.95 pb, 0-8147-1312-2; \$50 cl, -1302-5.**

Women Confront Cancer: Making Medical History by Choosing Alternative and Complementary Therapies by Margaret Wooddell and David Hess combines elements of personal experience and case stories with medical information and political activism. For women searching a broad spectrum of options and wanting to make informed choices, this book will be a useful tool. \$15.95 pb, 0-8147-3587-8.*

Old Wives' Tales and Other Women's Stories by Tania Modleski examines recent women's films,

performance, autobiographical experience, and contemporary social issues to illustrate how women's genres interact with women's lives. Though driven by concern for gender, the analysis also considers race and ethnicity, and motherhood and the maternal body. \$17.95 pb, 0-8147-5594-1.**

Also of interest: **Feminism and Men: Reconstructing Gender Relations** by Steven Schacht and Doris Ewing. \$18.50 pb, 0-8147-8084-9; \$55 cl, -8077-6.***

Sage Publications

For stores near campuses with strong science departments, you will want to know about **Women in Science: Meeting Career Challenges** edited by Ángela M. Pattatucci. This book offers an innovative examination of the difficulties that women encounter in the scientific community, including the factors that contribute to the low representation and low retention rate of women in scientific disciplines. This refreshing book provides an understanding of the experiences of women scientists expressed in their own words. These stories speak to the stereotypes, isolation, and boundaries so common to contemporary women scientists. They also speak to the women's many triumphs. This book should be required reading for any woman entering any field of science. \$24.50 pb, 0-7619-0049-7. All titles short discount; agency plan available.



State University of New York (SUNY)

Onna Rashiku (Like a Woman): The Diary of a Language Learner in Japan by Karen Ogulnick offers rich insight into the complex interplay between gender, race, culture, social class, historical experiences, and language learning. Through reflections on her experiences while learning Japanese in

Hiroshima, these writings bridge theories of feminism and second-language acquisition. \$12.95 pb, 0-7914-3894-5.*

For your feminist theory section: **Under the Sign of Hope: Feminist Methodology and Narrative Interpretation** by Leslie R. Bloom. \$19.95 pb, 0-7914-3918-6.***

For your literary criticism section: **Wandering Heart: The Work and Method of Hayashi Fumiko** (Hayashi Fumiko, 1903–1951, was a popular Japanese writer little-known outside of her country) by Susanna Fessler. \$19.95 pb, 0-7914-3908-9.**

Also of interest: **Sharing the Light: Representations of Women and Virtue in Early China** by Lisa Raphals. \$21.95 pb, 0-7914-3856-2.***



University of California Press

I don't know about other stores, but for some reason, we (at Amazon in Minneapolis) have had a surge of interest in early Christian mystics, especially Hildegard. **Voice of the Living Light: Hildegard of Bingen and Her World** edited by Barbara Newman adds to the growing number of interesting titles about Hildegard. \$19.95 pb, 0-520-21758-6; \$48 cl, -20826-9.**

It's not very often that fiction comes from University Presses, so I'm happy to recommend **Home and Away** by Joanne Meschery. It was praised by Jane Howard and Patricia Holt (formerly of the *San Francisco Chronicle*). I was engrossed just a few pages into the story. In an easy conversational style, this novel portrays a woman at the crossroads of her life at a time when divisive political issues of the greater world — the Gulf War, abortion, gay rights — encroach on her increasingly fragile home life. \$13.95 pb, 0-520-21342-4.*

Back in print and now in paperback: **Geisha** by Liza Dalby is an intimate look into a unique female community. \$17.95 pb, 0-520-20495-6.

University of Chicago Press

Kindred Nature: Victorian and Edwardian Women Embrace the Living World by Barbara T. Gates brings to light important science and nature writing long ignored by literary scholars and historians. The scope of these writings includes naturalist

writings by scientists, technicians, storytellers, and visionaries. \$20 pb, 0-226-28443-3, February.***

New edition: **Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940–1970** (Second edition with a new preface and afterword) by John D'Emilio. \$11.95 pb, 0-226-14267-1.**

Now in paperback: **Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism** by Bernadette Brooten. \$19, 0-226-07592-3. Reviewed in the January 97 *FBN*.***

The Ovary of Eve: Egg and Sperm and Preformation, Clara Pinto-Correia. \$17.50 pb, 0-226-66954-8. Reviewed in the January/February 98 *FBN*.

University of Georgia Press

In **The Unequal Hours: Moments of Being in the Natural World** Linda Underhill voices the essence of what her neighbors are trying to preserve in their own backyards, while protesting low-level nuclear waste dumping near their homes. These are appreciations of backyard nature — “moments of being” — which reveal the extraordinary. \$24.95 cl, 0-8203-2040-4.*

Also of interest: **Civil War Stories** by Catherine Clinton retells actual accounts of the war's impact on women and children, Black and white, on both sides of the conflict. \$14.95 pb, 0-8203-2074-9; \$30 cl, -2028-5.**

University of Illinois Press

Of interest: **Ecofeminist Literary Criticism: Theory, Interpretation, Pedagogy** edited by Greta Gaard and Patrick Murphy. \$19.95 pb, 0-252-06708-8.***

University of Kentucky Press

Voices of the Resistance: Testimonies of Cuban and Chilean Women edited and translated by Judy Maloof contains the testimonies of 13 women who fought for human rights and social justice in their communities. From active roles in the Cuban Revolution to grassroots resistance against Pinochet, these women have also worked tirelessly for women's and workers' rights. Finally, these voices — despite attempts to silence them — can now be heard. \$27.95 cl, 0-8131-2079-9.

University of Minnesota Press

Fans of Meridel Le Sueur now have another reprinted book to look forward to — **North Star**



Country. This regional history explores country stores and county fairs, labor unions and dusty roads traveled by peddlers and truck drivers, and farms where families toiled. Written in 1945, this unconventional history shines an uncommon light on ordinary people of the Upper Midwest. \$15.95 pb, 0-8166-3252-9.*

University of Nebraska Press

First published in 1944, **Speaking of Indians** by Ella Deloria provides useful historical and sociological insight into how white notions of progress and success have affected Indian kinship systems. It's an important source of information about Dakota culture and a classic in its elegant clarity of insight. It's not particularly focused on women, though. \$9.95 pb, 0-8032-6614-6.*

And the series continues: **Covered Wagon Women Volume VII: Diaries and Letters from Western Trails, 1854-1860** edited by Kenneth Holmes. \$14 pb, 0-8032-7296-0.*

New edition: **So Much to Be Done: Women Settlers on the Mining and Ranching Frontier, Second Edition** edited by Ruth Moynihan, Susan Armitage,

and Christiane Fischer Dichamp. \$16.95 pb, 0-8032-8248-6.**

Also of interest: **Women of the West** by Dorothy Gray. \$10 pb, 0-8032-7073-9.*

Essie's Story: The Life and Legacy of a Shoshone Teacher by Esther Burnett Horne and Sally McBeth. \$35 cl, 0-8032-2386-2.*

University of New Mexico Press

For those interested in the growing body of literature by Jewish women in Latin America, **The Book of Memories** by Ana María Shua will be a welcome addition. This novel humorously explores the history of a Jewish family in Argentina as seen through the eyes of three generations of women. \$16.95 pb, 0-8263-1949-1; \$32.50 cl, -1948-3.*

Wayne State University

New edition alert: **Jewish Women in Perspective, Second Edition** edited by Judith Baskin offers a collection of fully revised and new essays that explore the richness of Jewish women's history. \$19.95 short discount pb, 0-8143-2713-3. ○

And a few chosen from FBN's collection...

Columbia University Press

In **Sappho Goes to Law School: Fragments in Lesbian Legal Theory** award-winning poet and novelist Ruthann Robson (*A/K/A; Masks*) weaves together concepts taken from traditional legal theory, postmodernism, and queer theory, as well as her own personal experience in the courtroom and classroom. Her essays explore the complexities of lesbian identity and the often disturbing ways in which legal scholarship approaches lesbianism. She discusses the treatment of lesbian criminal defendants, lesbianism and violence, the courts' tendency to resort to stereotypes such as the "good lesbian" and the "bad lesbian," same-sex marriage, pedagogical problems in teaching lesbian legal theory, and child custody

cases involving lesbians. She also considers — and roundly repudiates — the recent habit of legal theorists to only address lesbians within the narrow context of the "alternative" family. \$17.50 pb, 0-231-10561-4.***

We Don't Exactly Get the Welcome Wagon: The Experiences of Gay and Lesbian Adolescents in Child Welfare Systems by Gerald P. Mallon is a comprehensive examination of the experiences of gay and lesbian youths in the welfare system. Mallon interviewed 54 gay and lesbian young people who lived in out-of-home child welfare settings in three cities: Los Angeles, New York, and Toronto. Mallon let the voices of the youths guide the research. Their experiences help the reader understand gay and lesbian

adolescents' realities in out-of-home child welfare systems. Also includes solid recommendations to social work practitioners and policy makers about providing a competent practice for gay and lesbian adolescents. \$22 pb, 0-231-10455-3.**

In **Finding Fran: History and Memory in the Lives of Two Women** Lois W. Banner tracks down her old high school friend, Fran Huneke. Since their girlhood, Banner had become a feminist, and Huneke had become a devout Muslim. **Finding Fran** explores the struggle for identity in the post-World War II era, the spiritual journeys of both women, and the strength of childhood bonds. \$24.95 cl, 0-231-11216-5.*

Modern Girls, Shining Stars, the Skies of Tokyo: Five Japanese Women by Phyllis Birnbaum explores the lives and work of five women artists whose lives spanned a century and a half. Through the fearlessness of their art and their private lives, these women — two actresses, two writers, and a painter — influenced the attitudes of their time and challenged the status quo. \$24.95 cl, 0-231-11356-0.*



Cornell University Press

Rather than attempting to establish fact or truth in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on Clarence Thomas, **The American Dream in Black and White** by Jane Flax looks at the political narrative by which our nation makes sense of itself. The senators' anxieties about their publicly televised role were evident throughout these hearings. Given our conviction that we are a nation built on freedom and equality, says Flax, the Senate committee had no choice but to confirm Thomas, thereby validating the cherished belief that with virtue and hard work, even a barefoot boy from Pin Point, Georgia, can transform himself into a Supreme Court Justice. To have turned him down would have called into question the very legitimacy of our politics and law. To have sympathized with Anita Hill, seen as having brought "filthy" material into public view, was impossible. Flax reveals the hearings as a dramatic challenge to the American political system and an indicator of fissures in the psychic fabric of contemporary Americans, Black and white, male and female. \$25 cl, 0-8014-3575-7.**

Duke University Press

The Worm in the Wheat: Rosalie Evans and Agrarian Struggle in the Puebla-Tlaxcala Valley of Mexico, 1906–1927 by Timothy J. Henderson is a tale of political intrigue, violence, shifting allegiances, extreme poverty, and the recalcitrance of one woman. Through the story of Rosalie Evans, a woman who lost her life defending her Mexican *hacienda* in defiance of confiscation decrees, he presents a multileveled interpretation of the Mexican revolution and the ultimate failure of agrarian reform. Henderson claims that it is essential to understand the revolutionary process not as a philosophical abstraction but as an intimate human drama. \$18.95 pb, 0-8223-2216-1.**

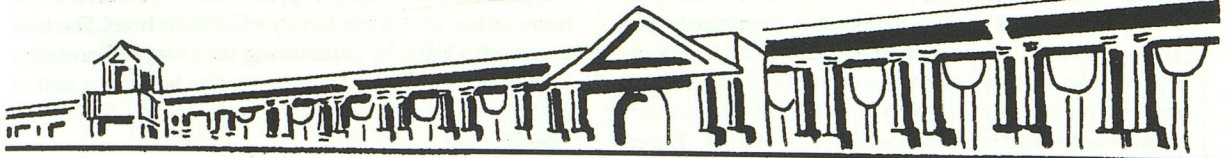
National Manhood by Dana D. Nelson explores the relationship between gender, race, and nation by tracing developing ideals of citizenship in the U.S. from the Revolutionary War through the 1850s. Nelson points to a cultural moment in which the notion of white manhood worked to ground, and perhaps even found, the nation. Nelson exposes the impossibility of this notion, an ideal which has helped to form racist and sexist practices. She claims that the white male standard has both privileged and oppressed white men who, when they measure themselves against the standard, are able to disavow their part in oppression. \$17.95 pb, 0-8223-2149-1.****

Harvard University Press

A powerful statement by Hazel Carby, a major voice among Black feminists, **Race Men** holds out the hope that by understanding how society relies upon affirmations of masculinity to resolve social and political crises, we can learn to transcend those affirmations. Carby rejects the historical assumption that a particular kind of Black male can represent the race. Since the Civil War a line is continually drawn between "good Black men" and "troublesome Black men" that causes harm to all Blacks, but particularly women since it leaves women out of the picture entirely. Carby utilizes the writing of W.E.B. Du Bois, the career of Paul Robeson, and the movie career of Danny Glover among many other examples in her research. \$24 cl, 0-674-74558-2.***

Rutgers University Press

Pregnant Women on Drugs: Combating Stereotypes and Stigma by Sheigla Murphy and Marsha



Rosenbaum looks at the lives of pregnant drug users. Though the effects of drugs on fetuses are widely reported, there has been little study of mothers. Murphy and Rosenbaum interviewed 120 pregnant or recently delivered drug-using women. They examine how pregnant addicts make choices about drug use, pregnancy, and pre-natal care. To combat the stereotype of the negligent, uncaring, and even abusive pregnant drug user, the authors seek to understand the feelings and motivations of the women, themselves. \$19 pb, 0-8135-2603-5, February.*

God Gave Us the Right: Conservative Catholic, Evangelical Protestant, and Orthodox Jewish Women Grapple with Feminism by Christel Manning draws upon Manning's two years of research in Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant communities. Manning looks at how the religious communities profiled have been influenced by feminist values and describes the ways in which these women negotiate gender roles at work, religious services, and at home. She explains how they deal with the inconsistencies created by their attempts to integrate feminist and traditionalist norms. She also examines their attitudes toward the feminist movement, its impact on American culture, and the extent to which the women seek to resist it. \$20 pb, 0-8135-2599-3, February.**

The Unedited Diaries of Carolina Maria de Jesus edited by Robert M. Levine and José Carlos Sebe Bom Beihy, translated by Nancy P.S. Naro and Cristina Mehrtens, is the first book to translate and analyze the original and unedited diary entries of the Black Brazilian slum dweller who became an internationally bestselling author. De Jesus' book, *Quarto de Despejo (The Trash Room)*, told of the harsh life of the slums, but also spoke of the author's pride in her Blackness, her high moral standards, and her patriotism. Many have tried to call into question the authenticity of de Jesus' book. Recent research shows that, though much of de Jesus' diaries were deleted

(and a second volume was not included), every word was de Jesus' own. Her diary stands on its own here, apart from the characterizations of the media, free from editorial manipulation. \$20 pb, 0-8135-2570-5.*

From Midwives to Medicine by Deborah Kuhn McGregor examines the development of modern medical treatment of women and the related history of women's health care since the mid-1800s. McGregor demonstrates how a new medical practice developed out of the changing patterns and historical experiences of childbirth, as well as out of the context of the racial and social relations of the sexes. \$23 pb, 0-8135-2572-1.*

A Patchwork Shawl edited by Shamita Das Dasgupta is a collection of essays by and about South Asian women living in America who challenge commonly held stereotypes about the South Asian immigrant community. It opens a frank discussion of taboos that have long surrounded sexuality, domestic violence, and intimacy and encourages women to re-negotiate identity and to organize communal self-help networks. Each essay brings a new perspective to the intersection of gender, ethnicity, race, sexuality, and class. \$19 pb, 0-8135-2518-7.**

"Doers of the Word:" African-American Women, Speakers, and Writers in the North (1830-1880) by Carla L. Peterson explores the cultural work of early Black women activists, "doers of the word," who traveled in the northeastern and mid-western states, preaching the gospel, lecturing, and writing about religious evangelicalism, abolitionism, moral reform, temperance, and women's rights. For these women, speaking and writing constituted a form of activism continuous with their social, political, and cultural work. \$20 pb, 0-8135-2514-4.***

Talking Leadership: Conversations with Powerful Women edited by Mary S. Hartman transcribes conversations with 13 outstanding women "practitioners" of leadership from a variety of fields — from philanthropy to politics, from business to academia — who came to the conclusion that the

world needed to change, and part of the job was up to them. Regardless of their different backgrounds and areas of expertise, these women are united in a commitment to positive change — change that includes improving women's lives and options. Includes interviews with Patricia Schroeder, bell hooks, Karen Nussbaum, and more. \$19 pb, 0-8135-2560-8.*



SUNY

Afrikan Mothers: Bearers of Culture, Makers of Social Change by Nah Dove highlights the integrity of some Afrikan mothers in the U.S. and the U.K. who have used their own experience as a foundation for understanding the impact of cultural imposition on their children's lives. Most of these women have placed their children in environments that will educate them about their cultural roots. \$19.95 pb, 0-7914-3882-1.**

Paradise Farm, a novel by Brenda Webster, is set in 1929 before the stock market crash. It probes the disintegration and rebirth of a wealthy Jewish family at a time when the New York art world was in ferment, women's roles were changing, the psychoanalytic movement was flourishing, and Hitler's threat was not yet realized. \$24.50 cl, 0-7914-4099-0, March.*

Teachers College Press

Feminist Teaching in Theory and Practice: Situating Power and Knowledge in Post-Structural Classrooms by Becky Ropers-Huilman incorporates the views revealed in conversations and observations with 22 teachers to address the multiple factors and perspectives that contribute to the many forms of feminist teaching. Ropers-Huilman focuses on circumventing existing structures to create new possibilities for the classroom. She examines power relations, knowledge negotiations, approaches to difference, and language usage through speech and silence. \$21.95 pb, 0-8077-3693-7.***

Temple University Press

Paradise, New York (not to be confused with *Paradise Farm*, above) by Eileen Pollack is a novel that explores the comforts and complexities of American ethnic identity with a charming commitment to

laughter and love. Lucy Appelbaum, 19, returns to the home of her youth, her family's Catskills hotel. She tries to save this Eden by capitalizing on a wave of nostalgia for the Borscht Belt and running the hotel as a sort of living museum of Yiddish culture. \$27.95 cl 1-56639-657-3.*

Many new mothers and fathers are surprised at how they change as individuals and as couples after a baby is born. **Thinking about the Baby: Gender and Transitions into Parenthood** by Susan Walzer is comprised of interviews with new parents about the gendered roles of mother and father. These interviews explore the tendency for men and women to experience their transitions into parenthood in different ways — a pattern that has been linked to marital stress. The reports of new parents illustrate the power of gendered cultural imagery in shaping how women and men think about their roles and negotiate their parenting arrangements. \$16.95 pb, 1-56639-631-X.**

University of Illinois Press

Introducing Charlotte Charke: Actress, Author, Enigma edited by Philip E. Baruth is a collection of essays on the 18th-century gender warrior. "Charlotte Charke...has come into her own recently after a long period of scholarly neglect. This absorbing new collection of essays on her life and 'mad pranks' should do much to make her story even better known, even as it illuminates the raffish, roiling, and often uncanny world in which she flourished." —Terry Castle (*Masquerade and Civilization*). \$19.95 pb, 0-252-06723-1.***

University of Minnesota Press

Hélène Cixous' **FirstDays of the Year** is a celebration of beginnings and future possibilities based on necessity and hope. Cixous constantly mediates writing and living, life and death. Her essay-poem is an inner journey across space and time linking the "author" to other poets. Cixous continues her exhilarating rewriting of notions of boundary, self, other, and author. Like all of Cixous' profoundly original works, it leads the reader to a new way of thinking by disrupting fixed ideas of psychic identity, subjectivity, and language. (The cover design is quite aesthetically pleasing, as well. A lovely addition to anyone's post-Fruedian French feminist collection!) \$16.95 pb, 0-8166-2117-9.***



University of Oklahoma Press

Long before American Indian women's literature achieved its current popularity, the writing of E. Pauline Johnson (1861–1913) pioneered the field. A woman of Mohawk-English descent, Johnson gained renown for her literary recitals and theatrical performances in Canada, England, and the U.S., being billed at the turn of the century as the "Mohawk Princess." **The Moccasin Maker** is a collection of Johnson's stories, which depict 19th-century Indian women caught between the forces of cultural continuity and the pressures of assimilation. In her day, Johnson's treatment of Indian themes and her descriptions of nature earned her praise, but critics ignored her vivid portrayals of women. This collection places her solidly within the genres of both American Indian fiction and women's fiction. \$12.95 pb, 0-8061-3079-2.**

University of Wisconsin Press

One of the country's leading criminologists, Mark Fleisher, spent two years with a Kansas City gang, the Fremont Hustlers, and met Cara. In **Dead End Kids: Gang Girls and the Boys They Know** Fleisher explores the depravity and humanity in gang life as seen through Cara's eyes. Cara's life is a sea of pregnancies and miscarriages, drugs and guns, minimum-wage jobs, abusive boyfriends, and unending run-ins with police and the juvenile justice system. The book describes in detail the social and economic pressure on Cara and fellow gang members whose lives were shaped by poverty, family disorganization, and parental neglect. Fleisher looks for hope in Cara's life, tries to bring her a brighter future, and ultimately fails. "Most of society has given up on these girls. Mark Fleisher show us why this is a tragic mistake." —Elizabeth Mehren, national correspondent, *L.A. Times*. \$24.95 cl, 0-299-15880-2.*

To write **The Good-bye Window: A Year in the Life of a Day-Care Center**, Harriet Brown spent a year observing The Red Caboose Day-Care Center in

Madison, Wisconsin. Started 25 years ago, the center has not only survived but thrived though some tough times. In the world of day care, Red Caboose is a special place, a model for what child care in this country could and should be: not just babysitting, not just a service to working parents, but a benefit for children, families, teachers, and the community at large. Brown's personal account explores Red Caboose's struggles, sorrows, and triumphs. \$22.95 cl, 0-299-15870-5.*



University Press of Colorado

The Circle Leads Home by Mary Anderson Parks is a novel about Katherine, an American Indian whose husband died from a drug overdose. Katherine works as a legal secretary to support herself and their sons. When she finds herself in an abusive relationship, she flees to the reservation she left 14 years ago, only to find her people's traditional tribal values are being challenged by the moneymaking lure of selling off old-growth timber and operating casinos. Environmental and social concerns force Katherine to become enmeshed in reservation politics. As Katherine explores and rediscovers her sense of self, she cements new alliances and realizes that the reservation is her home. \$22.50 cl, 0-8708-1488-5.*

University Press of Virginia

In **The Diaries of Charlotte Perkins Gilman**, editor Denise D. Knight makes available a streamlined version of Gilman's extensive personal diaries and journals. Included in this volume are entries written between 1879 and 1935. These selections illustrate Gilman's development from a restless, high-spirited, and opinionated young woman to a mature, internationally known author and lecturer whose words touched thousands as she worked to effect social change. \$22.50 pb, 0-8139-1796-4.* ○

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and Margaret F. Rosenthal

Veronica Franco (whose life is featured in the film *Dangerous Beauty*) was a sixteenth-century Venetian beauty, poet, and protofeminist. This collection captures the frank eroticism and impressive eloquence that set her apart from the chaste, silent woman prescribed by Renaissance gender ideology.

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Barbara T. Gates

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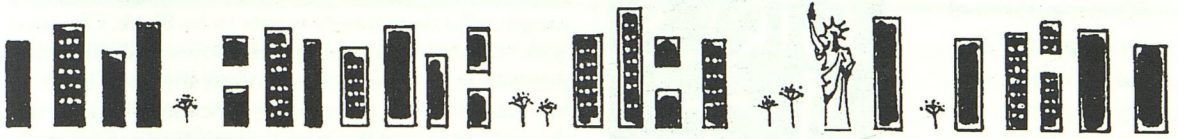
"Absorbing and satisfying. . . . Gleeefully, the biographer releases herself from the demands of her task: 'I have had enough of twisting. It's time to swing free.' Both the life she is living and the book she has written about have earned her the ride. When you read her tale, I think you'll agree."—Gertrude Reif Hughes, *Women's Review of Books*

Paper \$17.00

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Compiled by Teri Mae Rutledge

Atlantic Monthly/Grove, distributed by PGW

This Place You Return to Is Home (\$24 cl, 0-87113-741-0) is a new collection of stories from Kirsty Gunn, the author of *Rain* and *The Keepsake*. **Daughter of the River: An Autobiography** (\$24 cl, 0-8021-1637-X) by Hong Ying is a coming-of-age story of a young writer in the urban slums of Communist China. Simultaneously, Grove will also be releasing Hong Ying's novel, **Summer of Betrayal** (\$12 pb, 0-8021-3594-3) in paperback.



New in paper: **Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence** (\$15 pb, 0-87113-734-8) by Robin Karr-Morse and Meredith S. Wiley. "Evidence is building, as **Ghosts from the Nursery** demonstrates, that if we fail to love and nurture our children...we are not only condemning our children to a bleak future but we are destroying the fabric of our society. This is an eye-opening book."—Marion Wright Edelman. **On the Outside Looking In: A Year in an Inner-City High School** (\$15 pb, 0-87113-736-4) by Cristina Rathbone is "an important and moving work, instructive and eye-opening in the most essential and valuable ways."—Francine Prose. **Wicked Women** (\$12 pb, 0-87113-737-2) is a collection of stories by Fay Weldon (*The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*). **Jesus Saves** (\$12 pb, 0-8021-3598-6) by Darcey Steinke (*Suicide Blonde, Up Through the Water*) is "A grim and often persuasive view of modern suburbia as the outer circle of hell. Steinke brings to her portrait a powerfully dark lyricism, a sharp eye of character, and a seemingly natural gift for metaphor.

This is angry, painful, disturbing fiction."—*Kirkus Reviews*.
—Lisa McGowan

BDD-Bantam

Cloud Nine by Luanne Rice is "a novel brimming with the beauty and fragility of life." This is the story of a woman who unexpectedly triumphs over life-threatening illness and begins to rebuild a faith in having a future. Marketing includes national print advertising in *Chicago Tribune Books*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*, national radio advertising, and an author tour. \$19.95 cl, 0-553-09728-8.

The perfect antidote to the middle of winter is **Bringing a Garden to Life** by Carol Williams. Williams combines "practical wisdom gained in her own backyard, interwoven with reflections on making a special place that connects us with the natural world." The book is made more appealing with the addition of poems and drawings. \$12.95 cl, 0-553-09680-X.

Bantam is releasing three notable hardcover books as trade paperbacks during January and February: **Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble-Rouser** by Rita Mae Brown (\$13.95, 0-553-09973-6), **Baptism by Fire: The True Story of a Mother Who Finds Faith During Her Daughter's Darkest Hour** by Heather Choate Davis (\$10.95, 0-553-10645-7), and **The Good Death: The New American Search to Reshape the End of Life** by Marilyn Webb (\$15.95, 0-553-09555-2). All three books will receive national print advertising.

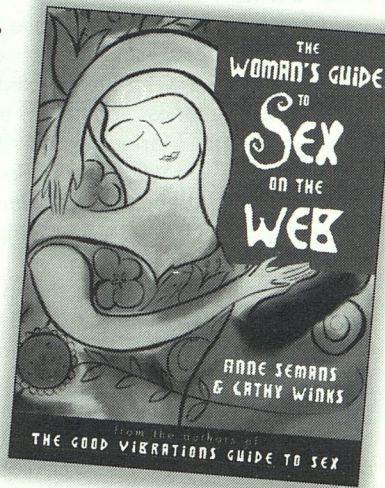
—*Sylvia Crannell*
Amazon Books/Minneapolis

BDD-Doubleday

The author of the bestselling *The Mistress of Spices*, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, has a new novel, **Sister of My Heart**. The story, written in Divakaruni's

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lush and colorful prose, is about two girls with different life circumstances but deeply connected hearts — "sisters of the heart." \$23.95 cl, 0-385-48950-1.

Stopping for Green Lights by Alyce Miller is a novel about a young white woman disillusioned by racism who desperately wants to be Black. Obsessed with "the deeper meaning of blackness," she tries desperately to be accepted as though she were Black by her Black friends. A "moving evocation of the potent desire to fit in and the grander ambition to be extraordinary." \$23.95 cl, 0-385-48944-7.

A Sudden Change of Heart by bestselling author Barbara Taylor Bradford is the story of the lifelong friendship of two women that "deals with overcoming adversity as well as celebrating life's joy...the triumph of the human spirit and the healing power of love." \$24 cl, 0-385-49274-X.

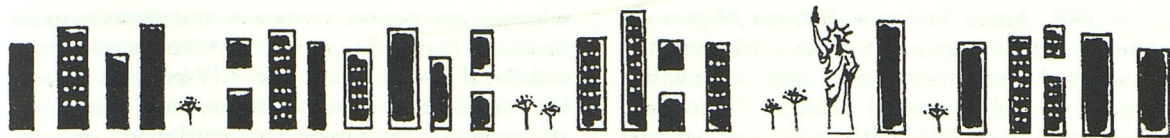
Survival of the Prettiest: The Science of Beauty by Nancy Etcoff is a "scientific inquiry into the nature of beauty that challenges *The Beauty Myth* and explains the universal fascination with looks along Darwinian lines." Etcoff maintains that "fascination with the human form is universal" and, informed by "state-of-the-art theories of the human mind from cognitive science and evolutionary biology," theorizes that adherence to bizarre, expensive, painful, and sometimes dangerous fashions may ensure the survival of our genes. \$23.95 cl, 0-385-47854-2.

Described aptly by its title, **1001 Things Everyone Over 55 Should Know** by Constance Schrader contains "chapters on everything from lifelong learning to glorious grandparenting, crime prevention to estate planning." It's a how-to book (programming your VCR, using email), a resource guide (contact info for every organization mentioned), and a health book (preventive and prescriptive) that even includes hints on decorative floor coverings. \$14.95 pb, 0-385-48224-8.

Now out in paperback, **The Future of Love: The Power of the Soul in Intimate Relationships** by Daphne Rose Kingma maintains that relationships are "often destroyed by an overemphasis on psychology." Instead, she suggests that partners relate "on a higher level of consciousness, characterized by love and forgiveness." \$10.95, 0-385-49084-4. —*Sylvia Crannell*

BDD-Dell

In After Long Silence: A Memoir Helen Fremont tells of being raised Roman Catholic in America and



discovering, as an adult, that her parents were Jews who survived the Holocaust. It is "a searching inquiry into the meaning of identity, self, and history," and about the "devastating price of hiding the truth," no matter how well meaning the lies are. \$24.95 cl, 0-385-33369-2, Delacorte.

Syndicates columnist Barbara Meltz helps parents understand what their children are feeling but not saying in her first book, **Put Yourself in Their Shoes: Understanding How Your Children See the World**. \$12.95 pb, 0-440-50823-1.

Charming Billy, Alice McDermott's bestselling novel about a charming, funny, and tragic Irish American eulogized by his friends and family, is now out in paperback. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-33334-X, Delta.

Another book about the Irish experience, **In Sunshine or in Shadow: Stories by Irish Women** edited by Kate Cruise O'Brien and Mary Maher is out in paperback. A collection of 19 stories by authors including Maeve Binchy, Kate Cruise O'Brien, Mary Morrissy, and Mary Gordon. \$12.95 pb, 0-385-33335-8, Delta.

—*Sylvia Crannell*



Beacon Press

January brings two releases from Gayl Jones.

Mosquito (\$28.50 cl, 0-8070-8346-1) is a new novel about an African American woman truck driver who becomes increasingly involved in "the new underground railroad," a sanctuary movement for Mexican immigrants. Sojourner Nadine Jane Johnson (also known as "Mosquito") challenges the reader to understand and accept the importance of self identity and difference in a world that insistently places limits on individual expression and culture.

The Healing (\$12 pb, 0-8070-6325-8) is being published in paperback as part of Beacon's Blue Streak paperback series, which publishes innovative literary writing by women of all colors. This book is the story of Harlan Jane Eagleton, "...at various times a

beautician, rock star manager and world traveler, [who] wanders America's back country, healing folks who show up at her revival meetings.... In this novel brimming with ideas, the most constant is the notion of a woman's absolute need to determine for herself who she is." —*San Francisco Chronicle*.

Other new titles in the Blue Streak series: **Renaissance** (\$12 pb, 0-8070-6841-1) by Ruth Forman, a collection of poetry. "Stunning and beautiful...incantatory language that heals; through references to writers of the Harlem Renaissance, the work builds a bridge for a new generation. These poems acknowledge some painful history, both personal and collective, but they lift us from that pain." —*Library Journal*.

If I Can Cook/You Know God Can (\$12 pb, 0-8070-7241-9) by Ntozake Shange, foreword by Vertamae Grosvenor is "A captivating collection of African American food memories, mediations, and recipes." —*Miami Herald*. Sonia Sanchez's **Like the Singing Coming off the Drums: Love Poems** (\$11 pb, 0-8070-6843-8) is being released in this series to coincide with the hardcover publication of her new collection, **Shake Loose My Skin: New and Selected Poems** (\$22 cl, 0-8070-6850-0). "With an unblinking and critical poet's eye, Sonia Sanchez has been setting her readers straight, telling the 'terrible beauty,' and reflecting images in ways that simultaneously solicit tears and laughter. For over 30 years this revolutionary poet has been underterred from a path that began in the sixties. She has not given up the struggle to let her poetry be what she refers to as a 'call to arms' for her people." —Juanita Johnson-Bailey, *Ms*.

Maroon Arts: Cultural Vitality in the African Diaspora by anthropologists Sally Price and Richard Price is a groundbreaking study which traces traditions in woodcarvings, textiles, clothing, and jewelry created by the Maroon people of Suriname and French Guiana, descendants of rebel slaves who wrested their freedom from the Dutch after a long guerrilla war. Includes 370 black and white illustrations. \$35 cl, 0-8070-8550-2.

In 1901, Annie Taylor, a destitute 63-year-old teacher, was the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. America didn't know what to do with a mature and self-possessed heroine; Taylor was rejected and exploited. Ultimately, her act was eclipsed by the man who repeated her stunt ten years later. **Queen of the Mist** by Joan Murray is her poignant, riveting and *true* story, told as a poetic narrative. \$20 cl, 0-8070-6852-7.

Jane Brox (*Here and Nowhere Else: Late Seasons of a Farm and Its Family*) traces the lives and times of her parents and immigrant grandparents in the textile mills and milk farms in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts in **Five Thousand Days Like This One: An American Family History**. \$23 cl, 0-8070-2106-7.

In **Fighting to Become Americans: Jews, Gender, and the Anxiety of Assimilation**, National Jewish Book Award-winning author Riv-Ellen Prell takes a provocative look at assimilation and the rise of gender stereotypes among American Jews. \$27.50 cl, 0-8070-3632-3

Now in paper: **Restoring Hope: Conversations on the Future of Black America** (\$13 pb, 0-8070-0943-1) by Cornel West includes West's conversations with Maya Angelou, Patricia Williams, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, and others as they talk about their political awareness, art and politics, and the possibility of hope among African Americans. **Short Fiction by Irish Women Writers** (\$16 pb, 0-8070-8341-0) edited by Louise DeSalvo, Kathleen Walsh D'Arcy and Katherine Hogan. **The Unknown City: The Lives of Poor and Working-Class Young Adults** (\$20 pb, 0-8070-4113-0, 352 pp) by Michelle Fine and Lois Weis is based on interviews with hundreds of African American, white, and Latino women and men ages 23 to 25 in two large eastern cities. **The State of America's Children: Yearbook 1999, A Report from the Children's Defense Fund** (\$18 pb, 0-8070-4199-8), with an introduction by Marion Wright Edelman, is an updated edition of this important annual report. —Lisa McGowan

Dancing after the Whirlwind by L.J. Tessier explores how the denial of a sexual self affects a woman's spiritual identity and her understanding of her place in the world. Tessier traces the deep roots of this denial and separation of sexuality and spirituality in both Western and Eastern religions. She examines the experiences of three groups of women

whose sexual desires, memories, and experiences are routinely denied by society: lesbians, survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and HIV-positive women. Drawing on their powerful examples, Tessier offers strategies for reclaiming the whirlwind of erotic power and seeing it for what it is — the sacred force through which we most deeply touch one another as human beings. \$18 pb, 0-8070-6511-0.

Lost Woods: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson edited by Linda Lear is a collection of never before published writing by Carson, uncovered by Lear, the author of *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*. "Biographer Lear knits together here a number of Rachel Carson's writings — often much more personal, quirky, and searching than her celebrated books — that add meat to her body of literary/scientific writing...an engaging glimpse into the breadth of Carson's curiosity and the fashioning of her public voice as a defender of the environment." —*Kirkus Reviews*. More than 30 years after its initial publication, Carson's *Silent Spring* still sells 25,000 copies annually. \$24 cl, 0-8070-8546-4. —TMR



Berkley Publishing Group

Sandra Lee Jamison's **Finding Your People** is a step-by-step genealogical source-finder written for African Americans. According to the blurb, "African American genealogy presents special challenges; traditional genealogical sources are harder to navigate and interpret." This book guides one's navigation through genealogical sources and offers alternative methods of unlocking the past. Addresses: locating lineage and pedigree documents, finding slave trade chronologies, using alternate spellings of common surnames, interviewing methods, accessing public versus "alternate" records, using African-American research sources, organizing family reunions, completing pedigree charts and family group sheets, and using census information. \$12 pb, 0-399-52478-9, February, Pedigree.

Now in paperback: **Caucasia** by Danzy Senna is a coming-of-age novel about the daughter of biracial parents (\$12.95 pb, 1-57322-716-1, April, Riverhead). Kathleen Norris' (author of the bestselling *Cloister Walk*) **Amazing Grace** blends history, theology, story-

telling etymology, and memoir in her examination of the Christian faith (\$12.95 pb, 1-57322-721-8, April, Riverhead). **Lambs of God** by Marele Day, a novel, is the story of three secluded nuns and the priest that stumbles upon them (\$12.95 pb, 1-57322-722-6, April, Riverhead). **Space: A Memoir** by Jesse Lee Kercheval chronicles the descent of one American family during the 1960s. "...devastatingly honest, relentlessly unsentimental." —*The New York Times Book Review*. (\$12.95 pb, 0-425-16683-X, February.) Alice Hoffman's **Angel Landing** is out in a new trade paper edition (\$13 pb, 0-425-16684-8, February). Also released in a new paper edition: **Red Azalea: A Memoir** by Anchee Min (\$13 pb, 0-425-14776-2, March).

If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home by Now is the debut novel from Sandra Tsing Loh, the bestselling author of *Depth Takes a Holiday* and *Aliens in America*. It is the story of Bonwyn and Paul, a couple stranded at a "temporary" stop on their inevitable way to Hollywood glamour — in a house that is so ugly, so frayed, so...brown, that it's almost cool. But just as Bohemian life is wearing painfully thin, their fortunes change, catapulting them out of the world of practical problems and into the world of ethical ones. "Crown Sandra Tsing Loh the acerbic queen of the Crate & Barrel crowd — her witty novel stars a parade of irony-afflicted, insuranceless Gen-Xers who dream of hitting the big time in L.A. or at least owning a sofa." —*Vanity Fair*. \$13 pb, 1-57322-695-5, Riverhead Books.

Daphne Scholinski's harrowing memoir of being institutionalized for her "inability to identify as a sexual female" during her high school years has been released in paperback. **The Last Time I Wore a Dress** has won a Lambda Literary Award and the Justice Award from the National Center for Lesbian and Gay Rights. \$13 pb, 1-57322-696-3, Riverhead Books. —TMR

Blackwell

For three decades, Angela Y. Davis has written on feminism, anti-racism, political philosophy, and liberation theology. Her analyses of culture, gender, capital, and race have profoundly influenced political and social thought and contemporary struggles. **The Angela Y. Davis Reader** edited by Joy James presents interviews, essays, and excerpts from Davis' most

important works including her memoir. In four parts — "Prisons, Expression, and Resistance," "Marxism, Anti-Racism, and Feminism," "Aesthetics and Culture," and "Interviews" — Davis examines progressive politics and intellectualism. The introduction tracks the intellectual development of Davis as one of the leading thinkers of our time. Essential reading for anyone concerned about social justice, Marxism, and critical race and feminist theory. \$24.95 pb, 0-631-20361-3. —TMR

Chronicle Books

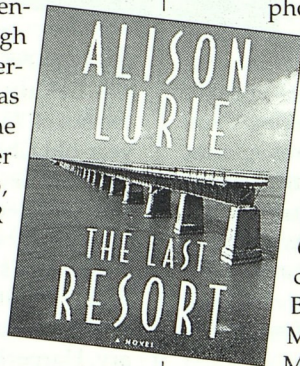
There are two health-related titles from Chronicle this issue: **Wise Concoctions: Natural Elixirs and Tonics for Health and Energy** by Bonnie Trust Dahan with photographs by Rita Maas will fit in if you do well with herbal remedy type books. (\$16.95 pb, 0-8118-1744-X). **The Hypochondriac's Handbook** by Wendy Marston is a sequel to her *The Paranoid's Pocket Guide*. It's bound in a small, cloth gift-book format; the publisher says it provides a humorous look at all the everyday things that are out to get us while also giving good advice on how to deal with doctors, etc. (\$10.95 cl, 0-8118-1895-0). —Suzanne Corson

Bodacia's Books/North Berkeley CA

Counterpoint

A Welcoming Life: The M.F.K Fisher Scrapbook compiled and annotated by Dominique Gioia is now available in paperback. With food as her metaphor, Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher wrote beautifully and wisely about the myriad hungers and satisfactions of life in a career that extended from the late 1930s to her death in 1992. \$20 pb, 1-887178-92-2.

M.F.K Fisher: A Life in Letters is the first publication of Fisher's more than 60 years of correspondence. Selected and compiled by her younger sister, Norah Barr, her longtime secretary, Marsha Moran, and a close family friend, Patrick Moran, these letters reveal Fisher's life through her private communications to family, friends, and loved ones. "These are superb letters — long, meaty, intimate, conversational. You can practically hear her breathing." —*The New Yorker*. \$21 pb, 1-887178-93-7. —TMR



Farrar Straus & Giroux

In America, a novel by Susan Sontag, tells the story of Maryna Zalewska, Poland's greatest actress. In 1876 she led a group of Poles to California to found a Utopian commune. Ultimately the commune failed, but Zalewska remained in America and returned to the stage. The novel is filled with details of early California and the world of the American theater. \$25 cl, 0-374-17540-3.

The Curse by Karen Houppert exposes how a male-dominated industry teaches women to view their own periods and, by extension, their bodies and sexuality. The author argues that ads, movies, novels, and magazines foster a "menstrual etiquette...based on secrecy and shame." \$24 cl, 0-374-27366-9.

To See and See Again by Tara Bahrapour is the story of an exiled Iranian girl who returns as an adult to her homeland. She tells about her early childhood in Iran, her family's attempt to lead a working class life in Oregon, and her attempts to come to terms as an adult with the world in which she might have grown up. \$24 cl, 0-374-28767-8.

Written by one of the few Black members of Mensa, **Project Girl** by Janet McDonald is the author's story of growing up in the projects. She succeeds in the world, attending college at Vassar, studying in Paris, and attending law school at Cornell, but holds on emotionally to the project world in which she grew up. \$23 cl, 0-374-23757-3.

In **No Go the Bogyman**, Marina Warner considers — through an analysis of monsters in myth and current culture — the continuing presence and popularity of figures of male terror (ogres, giants, etc.) in stories, songs, and films and explores reasons for our love/hate relationship with these creatures. She makes us think about the role of storytelling in contemporary culture and our reasons for and methods of perpetuating the bogyman. \$35 cl, 0-374-22301-7. —Harriet Clare

Gale Research

The St. James Press Gay and Lesbian Almanac edited by Neil Schlager is "not a frothy concoction of trivia, but a comprehensive, substantive volume written in a scholarly tone throughout. Like the other

almanacs, it stands up to quick consultation, but it is also great for browsing or more sustained study. Comprising almost two dozen chapters written by experts in the field, this reference source provides a broad, multifaceted overview of lesbian and gay history, culture, and communities in the United States. An extensive bibliography including articles, books, and, most notably, Internet resources accompanies each chapter in addition to the sizable general bibliography at the end of the book." \$100 cl, 1-55862-358-2, St. James Press. —TMR

HarperCollins

Perennial Classics is releasing a new edition of Doris Lessing's feminist classic, **The Golden Notebook**, for Women's History Month. \$14 pb, 0-06-093140-X, February, HarperPerennial.

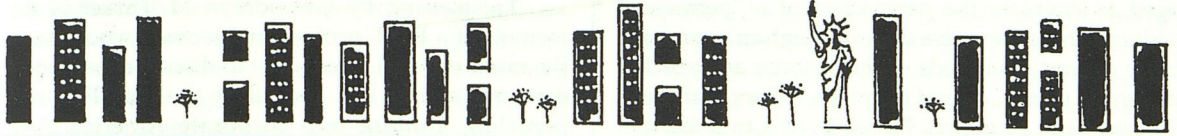
Now in paper: **The Antelope Wife** by Louise Erdrich is "a wonderfully sad, funny, and affecting novel." —*The New York Times*. \$13 pb, 0-06-093007-1, April, HarperPerennial.

These Is My Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881–1902 by Nancy Groves Turner is a novel about Sarah Prine, a woman who comes of age and falls in love in the American West. Turner's protagonist is inspired by the story of her pioneering great-grandmother. The copy claims that the novel is perfect for fans of *Lonesome Dove* and *Little House on the Prairie*, and a reviewer from *USA Today* compared Sarah to Scarlett O'Hara. \$14 pb, 0-06-098751-0, February, ReganBooks.

Loving Chloe by Jo-Ann Mapson is a sequel to the novel, *Hank & Chloe*. The copy says: "Thirty-four-year-old Chloe Morgan is as tough-talking, vulnerable, and tender as ever, but when she shows up at Hank Oliver's doorstep in Arizona, she arrives with more than her dog and horse in tow. She is pregnant with Hank's child." But another man, Navajo legend Junior Whitebear, interrupts their "first tentative steps into domesticity." \$13 pb, 0-06-093028-4, February, HarperPerennial.

TV personality Judge Judy has written a book: **Beauty Fades, Dumb Is Forever** by Judge Judy Scheindlin. This book is pitched at women "who defer to men, as well as teenage girls who need advice on building self-esteem." Judge Judy is doing lots of





national TV appearances to promote this; HarperCollins claims they have a bestseller on their hands. \$22 cl, 0-06-019270-4, February.

What to Read by Mickey Pearlman, Ph.D., is a newly updated version of the guide for book club members. Includes reading lists organized by theme, tips on starting a reading group, advice on picking lists, and the scoop on online/email book clubs. \$14 pb, 0-06-095313-6, March, HarperPerennial. —TMR



HarperSan Francisco

Anne Seamans and Cathy Winks, co-authors of *The Good Vibrations Guide to Sex*, have created an intelligent, provocative, and thorough behind-the-scenes look at the world of online sex: **The Woman's Guide to Sex on the Web**. Like the *GVG*, this guide is designed for the curious and adventurous woman. The Web, as a forum for safe and anonymous exploration, offers a wealth of diversions — from hard-core pornography to highbrow erotic literature to virtual boutiques offering toys, books, and videos — and can be an invaluable resource for sex-positive education. **The Woman's Guide** provides guidelines on privacy and safety, reviews a variety of reputable businesses that sell a wide range of sexual products, and interviews the world's leading sexperts. \$15 pb, 0-06-251548-9, February.

Now in paper: **Before the Change: Taking Charge of Your Perimenopause** by Ann Louise Gittleman shows women as young as 35 how to take care of their perimenopause simply, safely, and naturally. \$13 pb, 0-06-251537-3, February. —TMR

Heinemann

Kicking Tongues by Karen King-Aribisala transposes Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to modern-day Nigeria. King-Aribisala's narrative style blends poetry and prose, echoing traditional African storytelling. Forty travelers gather at the Eko Holiday Inn,

Lagos, intending to journey to Aburja, the new federal capital. Selected by their "melancholy hostess," they range from a wealthy tribal chief to a humble petrol pump attendant. They are united only by their dissatisfaction with Nigeria's chaotic and corrupt regime, a concern which is reflected in the widely differing stories they tell on the journey — bawdy talks, sharp satires, poignant narratives, and moral fables. **Kicking Tongues** addresses the themes of moral/political decadence, female oppression in a patriarchal society, and a new age where both men and women compete for power. \$13.95 pb, 0-435-91200-3. —TMR

Henry Holt

bell hooks has written a new book! **Remembered Rapture: The Writer at Work** is a collection of essays about the process and politics of writing. hooks examines the kinds of voices that women have established, the politics of confession, and the standards critics have set for women's writing. She also writes about her relationship to publishing and success, the death of nonfiction writing by Black women (contrasting with the rise in fiction by Black women), and writing as healing. She writes about the relationship of the reader to the writing process as well, and demonstrates that race, gender, and class can shape one's relationship to words. \$23 cl, 0-8050-5909-1.

Now in paperback: bell hooks' **Wounds of Passion: A Writing Life**, a memoir about writing, love, and sexuality. \$11.95 pb, 0-8050-5772-6.

Loving Me: A Sisterfriend's Guide to Being Single and Happy by Claudette Sims was originally self-published and sold over 30,000 copies. It encourages solo Black women to stop waiting for a man and appreciate the values of a single life. \$12.95 pb, 0-8050-5160-0.

Dawn Powell: A Biography by Tim Page is the first biography of this insightful author, whose works have enjoyed a revival in the past decade. Born in 1896, Powell came to New York City at the age of 21. Though she remained in the city for the next 47 years, she man-

aged to maintain the perspective of a "permanent visitor." This perspective shone through an impressive body of work: hundreds of short stories and articles, dozens of poems, at least ten plays, a diary that spans 35 years, and 15 novels. Powell lived a troubled life. Her youth was punctuated by a long series of deaths, disruptions, and petty cruelties, and her adulthood was colored by alcoholism, health problems, and poverty. The biography is a both a chronicle of her life and a celebration of her work. \$30 cl, 0-8050-5068-X.

Like a loyal wife, Jenny of Alison Lurie's **The Last Resort** has devoted her life to her much older husband, famous writer and naturalist Wilkie Walker. But one winter, Wilkie is depressed. Jenny persuades him to visit Key West — the Last Resort. But Key West is not called the last resort for nothing — lives turn upside-down there, and even short-term visitors can have experiences they never imagined. Within weeks of their arrival, Jenny has a part-time job and is involved with assorted local characters, including an ex-beatnik poet and the dramatically attractive lesbian manager of a women-only guest house. Meanwhile, Wilkie is planning suicide and trying to avoid the attention of a young female fan. Lurie's first novel in a decade, **The Last Resort** is a demonstration of Lurie's talent for high comedy and social comment. \$22 cl, 0-8050-5866-4. —TMR

Houghton Mifflin

In **More Bread or I'll Appear** by Emer Martin, four sisters in an Irish family set off to find the missing fifth, their mother's favorite. After many questionable adventures, an uncertain reunion, and a betrayal, the youngest daughter is forced to question the familial attachments that have always driven her. \$23 cl, 0-395-91871-5.

Imani All Mine by Connie Porter is the story of Tasha, 14 years old and the unwed mother of a baby girl, Imani, whose name means "faith." Tasha is a remarkable character, street-smart and hopeful. The reader, too, is left feeling wiser and hopeful. \$23 cl, 0-395-83808-8.

Jubilee by Margaret Walker is a memorable story of a family freed from slavery after the Civil War who try to make a home for themselves in a hostile white world. Vvry is a heroine to be reckoned with, but one can't miss the fact that her struggle is still going on in America today. \$8.95 pb, 0-395-92495-2, reissue.

Trespassing by Gwendolyn M. Parker is the memoir of a Black professional woman who rose in the ranks on Wall Street only to discover that requirements and sexism still prevail at the top. This is a revealing glimpse into corporate America. "An important keenly observed work that should be read by everyone who is interested in a good story, as well as by those intrigued by the gripping personal drama that comes from extending token access to a few black professionals and calling that phenomenon 'integration.'" —Lani Guinier. \$12 pb, 0-395-92620-3.

—Harriet Clare



Hyperion

Journey to Beloved by Oprah Winfrey, photographs by Ken Regan, was published to coincide with the release of *Beloved*, the Johnathan Demme film of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Oprah was deeply moved by *Beloved* when it was first published in 1988 and was determined to deliver this powerful story to film herself. This book is her emotional account of that experience. The design is posh, with lots of gorgeous black and white (with a style-ly subtle sepia duotone) photos, translucent pages in the title-page section, and nice textual layout. \$40 cl, 0-7868-6458-3.

Despite four decades in the spotlight, Gladys Knight has never shared the private details of her life until now in **Between Each Line of Pain and Glory**. Gladys has faced racism, sexual assault, addiction and recovery, and the struggle to break free from disappointing relationships. She has prevailed with her heart, soul, and humor intact. "In the tradition of Billie Holiday's *Lady Sings the Blues* and Tina Turner's *I, Tina* comes this thoughtful memoir." —*Publishers Weekly*. \$12.95 pb, 0-7868-8371-5.

Gale Warner was diagnosed with lymphoma at age 30. As an award-winning poet and journalist, Warner originally hoped to write the story of her recovery. Over the next 13 months, she dedicated herself to writing in her journal, expressing her well-earned wisdom about being fully alive. In **Dancing at the Edge of Life**, she describes her quest for spiritual strength as she wins against the tumor several times, only to face a stronger tumor growing

back after each victory. As she mobilizes her determination, she shares her contradictory struggle to hang on to life, even while letting go of her attachment to it. Interwoven throughout are her unflinching descriptions of her treatment and her quiet, poignant daily reflections. Three days before her death, she handed her husband the 1000-page journal. His edits shaped **Dancing at the Edge of Life**, the essence of a most exceptional, sensitive, and passionate soul. Her work is a moving and compelling testament to the human spirit. \$22.95 cl, 0-7868-6392-7.

In **I'm Not As Old As I Used to Be**, Frances Weaver shares her journey of growing older — from coping with widowhood to making peace with life's inevitable changes — and offers practical solutions and enlightened advice about the importance of acceptance and forging ahead. \$10.95 pb, 0-7868-8325-1. —TMR

Little, Brown

In the *New York Times Book Review*, Carol Shields called **Snake** by Kate Jennings "stunning... clearly the work of a powerful imagination." This debut novel is intense and quick-witted, chronicling the marriage of Irene and Rex and their subsequent move to an Australian farm. They raise two children, Irene tends her garden and wrestles with her fate, and Rex is silent. Their marriage unravels, as the copy says, "inexorably, bitterly, spectacularly." \$12 pb, 0-316-91258-1.

If your customers bought *A Map of the World*, steer them toward **Evening News** by Marly Swick. In this novel, nine-year-old Teddy accidentally shoots and kills his half-sister Trina with a gun handed to him by his best friend. Teddy's stepfather is unable to forgive his stepson. Teddy's mother is wondering where her "unconditional" maternal love is. Swick examines this family devastated by loss and asks: What would you do? How would you forgive? Who do you love more? A wrenching novel exploring loss and the delicate structure of stepfamilies. \$23 cl, 0-316-82533-6, February.

Show Me a Hero by Lisa Belkin follows the city of Yonkers, New York, after the order of a judge that dictates the move of hundreds of Yonkers' poor, minority residents east to the white middle-class side of town. The eastsiders fight the order, capitulating

only when the judge's fines cut seriously into the city budget. Belkin continues her reportage after the judicial fight is over and the newcomers have moved. She tells stories from both sides and ponders the fate of a "nation whose people preach diversity but are most comfortable when surrounded by others like themselves." \$25 cl, 0-316-08805-6, March.

Now in paperback: **The Boys of My Youth** by Jo Ann Beard is a book of autobiographical essays by the award-winning new writer. \$13 pb, 0-316-08525-1, February. —TMR

Penguin

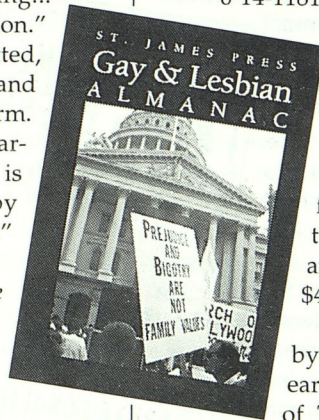
Coming, Aphrodite! and Other Stories by Willa Cather, edited by Margaret Anne O'Conner, is a group of stories set in small-town Nebraska. Colored by rumors, history, and small-town folklore, the collection attests to Cather's place in American literature (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-118156-7). Penguin is also issuing a new edition of Cather's **A Lost Lady** (\$8.95 pb, 0-14-118131-1).

Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins is the story of the woman who wouldn't give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Naturally, there is much more to Rosa Parks than her famous act of defiance. Here, Parks talks about the Civil Rights movement and her role within it. Ages 10 and up. \$4.99 pb, 0-14-130120-1.

Bayou Folk and A Night in Acadie by Kate Chopin, brings together two early short story collections by the author of *The Awakening* (1899). These stories about 19th-century people in New Orleans and the Natchitoches parish form, as the blurb says, "a sort of Southern novel of manners." \$11.95 pb, 0-14-043681-2, March.

New edition: **The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry** edited by Gerald Moore and Ulli Beier is in its fourth edition. This volume contains work by 99 poets, 31 of them in print for the first time, from 27 countries. \$15.95 pb, 0-14-118100-1, February.

Now in paperback: Maureen Howard's novel, **A Lover's Almanac**, is "brazenly intelligent.... Writing of such gorgeous proportion as to make you gasp." —*The Boston Sunday Globe*. (\$12.95 pb,



0-14-027512-6.) **Prince Charming Isn't Coming: How Women Get Smart about Money** by Barbara Stanny guides women to be confident about money (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-026693-3). Penguin picked up the pb rights from Soho of Anne Landsman's **The Devil's Chimney**, a novel set in South Africa about a poor white woman (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-027746-3). Nobel prize-winner Nadine Gordimer's **The House Gun** is "elegantly conceived, flawlessly executed...a love story unlike any other I have ever read." —*The New York Times Book Review*. (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-027820-6.) **Straight, No Chaser: How I Became a Grown-Up Black Woman** by Jill Nelson (author of *Volunteer Slavery*) addresses the, as she says, "two most loathed groups in America," those who are Black, and those who are female (\$12.95 pb, 0-399-14262-2, February). **Café Europa: Life after Communism** by Slavenka Drakulic observes the effects of capitalism on a divided Europe (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-027772-2, February). Jacquelyn Mitchard's **The Rest of Us: Dispatches from the Mother Ship** is the best of her nationally syndicated-column from the past decade (\$12.95 pb, 0-14-027497-9, March). **A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the United States in the Twentieth Century** by Shelia Rowbotham charts the ways which women have shaped history since 1900 (\$16.95 pb, 0-14-023282-6, March).

Lillian Too's **Little Book of Feng Shui** introduces readers to Feng Shui. It offers tips on promoting health, wealth, love, fame, and happiness, as well as revealing "the Chinese secrets for living in tune with the environment and tapping auspicious chi." \$4.95 pb, 0-86204-514-3, Element. Distributed by Penguin Putnam.

Reading to Heal: How to Use Bibliotherapy to Improve Your Life by Jacqueline Stanley purports to be a self-help guide to assessing self-help books. I suppose, with the enormous amount of self-help books in print today, that I shouldn't be surprised (or amused) at **Reading to Heal's** publication. (But I am!) \$24.95 cl, 1-86204-390-6, March, Element.

Now in paperback: **Tibet: My Story** an autobiography by Jetsun Pema, foreword by Eli Weisel, is the story of the sister of the Dalai Lama and of Tibet,

pre and post-invasion. \$14.95 pb, 1-86204-361-2, Element. —TMR

Plume

Big news in Plume paperback land! Plume is releasing the paperback edition of Toni Morrison's **Paradise**. Order by the boxful. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-20839-7, April.

And more news: Julia Dash's **Daughters of the Dust** is also releasing in paperback. Based on her film of the same name, the novel chronicles the lives of the Peasant family, part of the Gullah people in the 1920s Carolina coastal islands. Dash's use of language is as lush and vivid as her cinematic vision. \$13.95 pb, 0-452-27607-1, February.

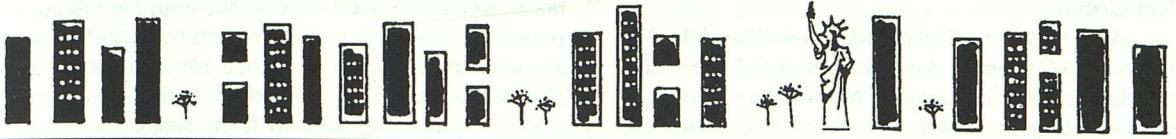
Capitalizing on the current popularity of Irish childhood memoirs, Plume is reissuing **Mother Ireland: A Memoir** by Edna O'Brien, which has long been out of print. O'Brien weaves her own history with the history of Ireland. The blurb says that "**Mother Ireland** is an ode to a time, a place, and a people that one can leave, but never leave behind." \$11.95 pb, 0-452-28050-8, March.

Leaving Deep Water: Asian American Women at the Crossroads of Two Cultures by Claire S. Chow examines how Asian American Women have integrated their ethnic identity with mainstream American culture. Chow examines coming of age, parental expectations, marriage, divorce, career, family, and aging. \$13.95 pb, 0-452-28049-4, March.

Double Delight by Joyce Carol Oates writing as Rosamond Smith is the latest psychological suspense novel from prolific and acclaimed Oates/Smith. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28041-9, March.

Cherishing Our Daughters: How Parents Can Raise Girls to Become Confident Women by Evelyn Bassoff, Ph.D., offers parents the help and skills they need to raise daughters who are able to achieve, compete, and succeed. The book addresses all types of parents, including gay and lesbian couples, fathers, mothers, and single parents. Mary Pipher, the author of *Reviving Ophelia*, gave it a positive blurb. \$13.95 pb, 0-452-27472-9, February.





Return of the Primitive: The Anti-Industrial Revolution by Ayn Rand, edited with an introduction and additional essays by Peter Schwartz, is a reprint of Rand's 1971 bestseller, *The New Left*. Schwartz has added essays of his own to underscore the continuing relevance of Rand's analysis of the 60s and 70s. He claims that current ideologies like environmentalism and multiculturalism are being influenced by an "anti-industrial" mentality, the same mentality that fueled the New Left a generation ago. \$14.95 pb, 0-452-01184-1.

More Ayn Rand: **The Ayn Rand Reader** by Ayn Rand, edited by Gary Hull and Leonard Peikoff features excerpts from both Rand's novels and her nonfiction. The first-ever Ayn Rand primer — a medley of Ayn Rand. (Hope you like her: it's over 500 pages long.) \$16.95 pb, 0-452-28040-0.

Now in paperback: **Eccentric Neighborhoods** by Rosario Ferré is, as the blurb says, "a tale of two families whose histories, tangled love affairs, and dreams of power and glory are inextricably linked to the fortunes and fate of Puerto Rico." \$12.95 pb, 0-452-28064-8. —TMR



Putnam

Patricia Cromwell, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Hornet's Nest*, once again casts her shrewd and knowing eye at the stormy center of a big-city police force in **Southern Cross**. Charlotte, North Carolina, Police Chief Judy Hammer travels to Richmond, Virginia, on a NIJ grant to clean up the police force. Reeling from the recent death of her husband and resented by the police force, city manager, and mayor of Richmond, Hammer is joined by her deputy chief Virginia West and rookie Andy Brazil on the most difficult assignment of her career. In face of overwhelming public scrutiny, the trio must bring truth, order, and sanity to a city in trouble. \$25.95 cl, 0-399-14465-X. —TMR

Random House

The Things We Do to Make It Home (\$22.95 cl, 0-375-50201-7) by Beverly Gologorsky is a first novel about the effects, both immediate and long-term, of the Vietnam War on the lives of the women and children of the men who fought there. Gologorsky has been an activist in both the women's and peace movements. **The Handyman** by Carolyn See is described by the publisher as "reminiscent of the best of Anne Tyler for its compassion and humor...[and] a breathtakingly visual novel about the surprises of destiny and the origin of fame." See is the author of *Dreaming: Hard Luck and Good Times in America, Making History, and Golden Days* (\$22.95 cl, 0-375-50155-X). Best known for her television mini-series *Prime Suspect*, Lynda La Plante is also the author of crime stories featuring P.I. Lorraine Page: *Cold Blood, Cold Shoulder*, and now *Cold Heart* (\$24.95 cl, 0-375-50004-9).

—Lisa McGowan

Girlfriend: Men, Women, and Drag by Holly Brubach. Will this very pricey book sell? I don't know, but the write-up sounds fascinating and we certainly have folks who are interested in drag. This book is more about drag around the world, with lots of photos, so that is why it is so expensive. \$39.95 cl, 0-679-41443-6, February.

Betty Friedan, Her Life by Judith Hennessee, releasing in Women's History Month, of course, offers an in-depth look at this renowned leader of the women's movement. \$26.95 cl, 0-67943203-5, March.

—Linda Bryant

Charis Books/Atlanta GA

Random House AudioBooks

The Maya Angelou Poetry Collection contains more than 100 of Maya Angelou's poems, performed by the author. The four tapes in this collection, *Just Give Me A Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die, I Shall Not Be Moved, Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well, On the Pulse of Morning*, are also available individually. \$19.95, 4 cassettes; 0-375-40596-8, approximately 2 hours. —Lisa McGowan

RH-Crown

A Defiant Life: Thurgood Marshall and the Persistence of Racism in America (\$30 cl, 0-517-59931-7) by Howard Ball argues that Marshall's success as a lawyer and jurist turned on the many instances of racism he experienced and fought against. **My Life As a List: 207 Things about My Bronx Childhood** (\$15 cl, 0-609-60367-1; 96 pp, Clarkson Potter) by Linda Rosenkrantz is a memoir of the author's experience growing up in a post-Depression Jewish Bronx neighborhood, told through vignettes. Includes 45 black and white photographs. —Lisa McGowan

In The Calling: A Year in the Life of an Order of Nuns, Catherine Whitney, a laywoman spends time in a convent, observing, sharing life, hearing stories, and reports back on the changes in her own spiritual journey as well as thoughts on the complicated issues faced by the nuns themselves as they live and work in the male-dominated hierarchy of the church. 0-51770854-X, \$23 cl, April.

Though **Heal Thy Self: Lessons on Mindfulness in Medicine** by Saki Santorelli is written by a man, its subject is one of great interest to my customers (and me too) – a little Deepak, a little Caroline Myss, forward by Jon Kabat-Zinn. New ways to open to pain and vulnerability, ways to reduce stress. \$23 cl, 0-60960385-X, March. —Linda Bryant

**RH-Knopf**

In The Pig Farmer's Daughter and Other Tales of American Justice: Episodes of Racism and Sexism in the Courts from 1865 to the Present (\$24 cl, 0-679-43611-1), Mary Frances Berry (head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission) takes the reader through two centuries of American case law to show how attitudes toward gender, race, class, and sexuality have influenced, and continue to influence, judicial decision-making. Berry writes about specific cases, and the book is fascinating for its human drama as much as for its political implications. **Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century** (\$30 cl, 0-679-40827-4) by Randall Kenan (*Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*) is a moving and provocative account of the thinking, the feelings, and the lives of African Americans in the nineties. For this

book, Kenan traveled around the country talking to people: an Air Force major whose father was lynched, an octogenarian farm woman, a 12-year-old girl in a racist classroom, a woman judge in skinhead country, a Republican congressman from Alaska and many others. He offers a wide range of experience in Black American life today.

In March: **The Art of Blessing the Day: Poems with a Jewish Theme** (\$23 cl, 0-375-40477-5) by Marge Piercy releases. **For the Time Being** (\$22 cl, 0-375-40380-9) by Annie Dillard is a personal narrative reminiscent of her *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. **Vittorio the Vampire** (\$19.95 cl, 0-375-40160-1) by Anne Rice is the second in her *New Tales of the Vampires* series. **The World and Other Places: Stories, 1986–1999** (\$22 cl, 0-375-40240-3) by Jeanette Winterson is the first collection of stories from the author of *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, *The Passion*, and *Sexing the Cherry*. —Lisa McGowan

The Last Lovely City is a new collection of stories by Alice Adams. The first nine stories range from a college professor and his ex-wife playing an extended game of let's-kiss-and-make-up to the story of a woman who mourns the loss of her cat more profoundly than the recent death of her husband. The title story is the tale of an old doctor, known for his generosity, who now faces the less-than-righteous way he has managed to accrue the money to support his good works. \$22 cl, 0-679-45441-1, February.

While I Was Gone is a new novel by Sue Miller, the author of *The Good Mother*. It is the story of Jo Becker, the good wife who has everything: work she loves, a devoted husband, three grown daughters, a beautiful Massachusetts farmhouse. When an old housemate settles in her small town, the fabric of Jo's life begins to unravel, and she hesitantly begins a relationship that returns her to the darkest moment of her past and imperils all she loves. \$24 cl, 0-375-40112-1, February.

In a dazzling work of journalism, Janet Malcolm looks into a case of an unfrocked lawyer named Sheila McGough who wrote to Malcolm about her wrongful conviction. **The Crime of Shelia McGough** looks at McGough's prosecution and conviction by a government and jury who interpreted her zealous representation of a con-man client as collaboration in his fraud. Malcolm's book is a meditation on character, on the law, and on the incompatibility of narrative with truth. \$22 cl, 0-375-40508-9, February.

Life in the Air Ocean is a debut collection of stories by Sylvia Foley. These nine dark, chilling stories center around the Mowrys of Carville, Tennessee. These stories explore the wilds of childhood and the barren landscape of adulthood through two generations, from the tar flats of Tennessee to the lush countryside of Bogota, Colombia. \$21 cl, 0-375-40063-X, February.

From the author of *Sister Wolf* comes a new novel about a thriving agricultural community that, until now, has been blissfully ordinary and uneventful. **Incubus** by Ann Aresberg is the story of Dry Falls, which seems to be under a climatic glass bell when a three-month drought blights its farms and gardens. The conditions extend only as far as its borders and when animals give birth to monsters and women complain of sexual persecution, the rector of St. Anthony's starts to lose his faith. \$24 cl, 0-394-55696-8, February.

The Rooms of Heaven by Mary Allen is an intimate and gripping literary account of love, grief, and healing and an exploration of life after death. Allen meets and falls in love with Jim Beaman, a witty, handsome working man with a drug addiction. Allen gets drawn into his world of addiction with its promises and denials, good intentions and inevitable disappointments. When Jim kills himself, she embarks on a profound journey that leads her, perhaps, to contact with Jim, to the brink of madness, and ultimately back to herself. \$24 cl, 0-679-45460-8, February. —Sandi Torkildson

A Room of One's Own/Madison WI

RH-Pantheon

Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith by Anne Lamott journeys through her troubled past and tells how, against all odds, she came to believe in God. She writes about her family, about helping a friend through the illness of her baby, about wanting but not having all the answers for her eight-year-old son. \$23 cl, 0-679-44240-5, February.

Wendy Lesser, the founder and director of *The Three-penny Review*, a literary journal, traces the development of her thinking and the course of her life's work in **The Amateur: An Independent Life of Letters**. Lesser explores both how we discover our passions in life and how our passions discover us. She

discusses her coming of age and the artists whose work she witnessed on stage, canvas, screen, and paper, which have influenced her considerable powers of perception and thought. \$24 cl, 0-375-40402-3, February.

—Sandi Torkildson

When celebrated Scottish trumpeter Joss Moody dies and the secret of his life is revealed, his wife Millie and their adopted son Colman are besieged by the press; their world is shattered. The publisher describes **Trumpet** (\$23 cl, 0-375-40509-7) by Jackie Kay as "a mesmerizing first novel about the boundaries of identity and the essential nature

of love.... [**Trumpet** is] the startling and poignant tale of Joss and Millie: how they built a love, a family, and a life for themselves and their son out of a complex, dazzling lie." Jackie Kay is the author of *Bessie Smith* (see "Small Press" and "More Books for the African American Lesbian Section"). Though Pantheon's copy carefully keeps Joss' secret, I'll hazard what I think is a pretty safe guess: Joss was a woman. Jackie Kay's writing is absolute gold, and her first novel promises to be a great read. I can't wait to get my hands on it!

—description by LM, commentary by TMR

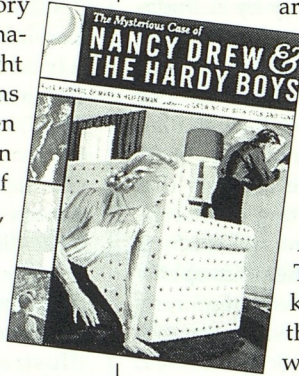
African American Folktales: Stories from Black Traditions in the New World edited by Roger D. Abrahams is a part of Pantheon's Fairy Tale and Folklore Library, now in paper (\$16 pb, 0-375-70539-2). Now in paper: **Black on White: Black Writers on What it Means to Be White** (\$14 pb, 0-8052-1114-4; Schocken) edited by David R. Roediger includes writings from Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois to Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison and Alice Walker. —Lisa McGowan

RH-Shambhala

Now in paper: **A Heart as Wide as the World: Stories on the Path of Lovingkindness** by Sharon Salzberg. Salzberg has many fans and we even sold this in cloth. \$12.95 pb, 1-57062-428-3, February.

For those who can sell poetry — we do — and for the many fans of Ursula Le Guin, comes **Sixty Odd: New Poems**, the first new book of her poems in nearly a decade. \$14 pb, 1-57062-388-0, February.

—Linda Bryant



New in paper: Jungian analyst Marie-Louise von Franz examines archetypal symbols of humanity in fairy tales, dreams, and visions in **Archetypal Dimensions**. \$25 pb, 1-57062-426-7; 416 pp. —*Lisa McGowan*

RH-Three Rivers

Now in paper: **Gracious Plenty** by Sheri Reynolds (\$12, 0-609-80387-5, April), **How to Mother a Successful Daughter, a Practical Guide to Empowering Girls from Birth to Eighteen** by Nicky Morone, (\$14, 0-609-80276-3, April), and **Summoning the Fates, a Woman's Guide to Destiny** by Z. Budapest, (\$12, 0-609-80277-1, April). —*Linda Bryant*

Capturing the spirit and drive of the second-wave feminists' struggle for liberation, **The Feminist Memoir Project** edited by Rachel Blau DuPlessis and Ann Snitow is a compilation of 31 essays and interpretations by female activists that bring women's efforts to life. Reflecting on friendships that strengthened the movement and conflicts that threatened it from within, these memoirs openly discuss the complexities of the many issues feminists struggled with in the past and still struggle with today: men, children, sexual orientation, race and class. Kate Millett, Vivian Gornick, Michele Wallace, Alix Kates Shulman, Joan Nestle, Jo Freeman, and a variety of activist women show how women, believing in the possibility of their own powers, initiated major shifts in all spheres of life, including sexuality, marriage, children, work, medicine, education, politics, and law. "These women — lively, opinionated, disagreeing, and uniting — tell their own histories that actively created the history of us all. At last, the story by those who lived it." —Grace Paley. \$20 pb, 0-609-80384-0. —*TMR*

RH-Times Books and Reference

The publishers' catalog copy for **Expecting Adam: A True Story of Birth, Rebirth, and Everyday Magic** (\$23.95 cl, 0-8129-2980-2) by Martha Beck, which includes glowing endorsements from Sophy Burnham (*Book of Angels*) and Julia Cameron (*The Artist's Way*), calls this a "funny, inspiring memoir" about the author and her husband, whose "decision to keep Adam (their unborn son who was diagnosed with Down's syndrome) propelled them into a world in which they had no choice but to trust in magic." In **Finding a Place Called Home: An**

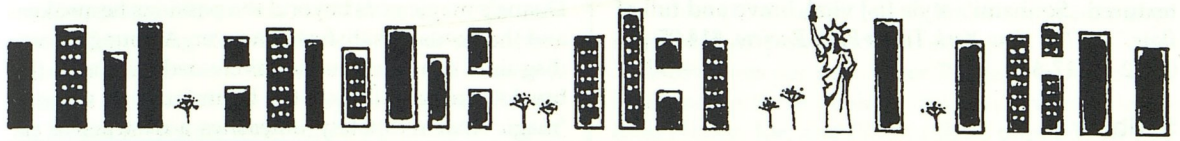
African American Guide to Genealogy and Historical Identity, Dee Parmer Woodtor, Ph.D., shows how to sidestep the roadblocks that often hinder Black genealogy, explaining how to use census reports, slave schedules, courthouse records, the Internet, and other sources to trace a family tree (\$25 cl, 0-375-40595-X). Award-winning South African reporter and poet Antjie Krog reported on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for over two years. **Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa** (\$27.50 cl, 0-8129-3128-9) is her account of the work of the Commission. "Trying to understand the new South Africa without the Truth and Reconciliation Commission would be futile; trying to understand the Commission without this book would be irresponsible." —Andre Brink. Foreword by Charlayne Hunter-Gault. **Cleopatra's Palace: The Search for the Real Queen of the Nile** (\$35 cl, 0-679-46260-0) by Laura Foreman is a series tie-in to the Discovery Channel special to air in March on the discovery and excavation of this long-vanished summer palace. Contains more than 250 full-color illustrations, including exclusive underwater photographs. —*Lisa McGowan*



RH-Vintage

In **Her Own Words: Women's Memoirs from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States** (\$18 pb, 0-679-78153-6, 784 pp), edited and with an introduction by Jill Ker Conway. Through the stories of eleven remarkable women, this collection shows how the worlds of politics and the private self intersect in four offshoots of the old British world. Contributors include Janet Frame, Shirley Chisholm, Lillian Hellman, and Kim Chernin. A paperback original. Vintage will also be publishing **When Memory Speaks: Exploring the Art of Autobiography** (\$13 pb, 0-679-76645-6), Ker Conway's latest book, in March. —*Lisa McGowan*

Now available in paperback: Molly Ivins' collection of essays **You Got to Dance with Them What Brung You**, takes on the issues of the day with her trademark good sense and inimitable wit. Whether she's writing about Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, or cultural



trends, she is guaranteed to offend readers of every ideological allegiance and delight anyone with a sense of humor. \$12 pb, 0-679-75487-3, February.

Deep Sightings and Rescue Missions edited by Toni Morrison, collects Toni Cade Bambara's fiction, essays, and conversations. The collection is proof of Bambara's intelligence and passion and the enduring powers of her creation. Bambara, who died in 1995 at the early age of 56, writes of mothers and daughters, rebels and seeresses, community activists and aging gang-bangers. Included are her reflections on film and literature, politics and race and on the difficulty and necessity of forging an identity as an artist, activist, and Black woman. \$13 pb, 0-679-77407-6, February.

Blues Legacies and Black Feminism by Angela Y. Davis is analysis of the blues in a historical, social and political context. Davis reinterprets the performances and lyrics of Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday as the articulation of a Black, working-class feminist consciousness at odds with mainstream American culture. \$15 pb, 0-679-77126-3, February. —*Sandi Torkildson*

Routledge

Stigmata: Escaping Texts by Hélène Cixous is a collection of recent short texts by the renowned thinker and writer. The pieces included resist classification according to any simple categories of subject matter of genre. With the creative rigor she is known for, Cixous' writing chases across borders and through languages on the heels of works by authors who share "an elusive movement" in spite of striking differences. Along the way, these essays explore the broad range of poetico-philosophical questions that have long been circulating in the Cixousian universe. \$19.99 pb, 0-415-17979-3.

Feminist Visions of Development: Gender Analysis and Policy edited by Cecile Jackson and Ruth Pearson seeks to answer these questions: Do women benefit from development? Can feminist perspectives further our understanding of women in

development? This volume brings together leading gender and development scholars who interrogate the last twenty years of work in this area. The book examines gender and the environment, education, population, reproductive rights, industrialization, macroeconomic policy, and poverty. Inspired by recent feminist theoretical work, the book explores previous structural analysis and opens the way for further research in the field. \$27.99 pb, 0-415-15790-0. —*TMR*



St Martin's Press

Travel is a theme for St. Martin's this winter with two releases by Mary Morris. **Angels and Aliens: A California Journey** is Morris' newest (\$23 cl, 0-312-19949-X) and **Nothing to Declare: Memoirs of a Woman Traveling Alone** is now available from St. Martin's (\$13 pb, 0-312-19941-4). A different kind of journey is described in **The Country Life** by Rachel Cusk (\$24 cl, 0-312-19848-5).

From This Day Forward: Commitment, Marriage, and Family in Lesbian and Gay Relationships by Gretchen A. Stiers, announced last fall, has been postponed to February. \$24.95 cl, 0-312-17542-6.

—*Suzanne Corson*

From Diana Souhami (*Gertrude and Alice and The Trials of Radclyffe Hall*) comes **Mrs. Keppel and Her Daughter**, which tells the story of Violet Trefusis, lover of Vita Sackville-West, and her mother, Alice Keppel, lover to Edward VII. Alice Keppel was a key figure in Edwardian society. Hers was the acceptable face of adultery. In contrast, her daughter Violet Trefusis' lover was Vita Sackville-West. Violet's passion pitted her against her mother and society. Through memoirs, diaries, and letters, Diana Souhami portrays this fascinating and intense mother/daughter relationship. Their story reveals Edwardian — and contemporary — duplicity and double standards. "Fascinating...and richly

textured...Souhami's style [is] vital, brave and full of flair." — *The New York Times Book Review*. \$14.95 pb, 0-312-19517-6. —TMR

Scribner

The Best American Erotica 1999 edited by Susie Bright includes stories from all points on the "sexual spectrum." This anthology offers a smart, sometimes funny, and stimulating look at the diversity of sexual experience. \$12 pb, 0-684-84395-1, February, Touchstone.

Myth of the Welfare Queen by David Zucchini is the reporter's portrait of the lives of two "welfare mothers" in Philadelphia. Odessa Williams supports an extended family with an incredible fortitude and resolve. Cheri Honkala is a single mother and advocate for the homeless. Their stories stand in stark contrast to the image of the welfare cheat that is held up by those who wish to dismantle the welfare system. \$13 pb, 0-684-84006-5, February, Touchstone.

Now in paperback: **Nobody's Girl** by Antonya Nelson is getting some nice reviews: from *The New York Times*, *Redbook*, and *Booklist*. In this novel, Birdy Stone is a high school English teacher who gets high with her gay male friend, Jesús, helps a would-be author write her memoirs, and has a love affair with the son of that would-be author — who also "just so happens to be" one of her students. The copy says that "Nelson spins a tale that is both comic and tragic, a story of growing up, getting high and feeling low, and of the lessons of literature and life." I must say that I don't really get the popularity of the older-woman-with-a-young-boy theme that seems to suddenly be so popular (*A Much Younger Man* by Donna Highbridge comes to mind — a book I found unexceptional but which also garnered some impressive reviews, as well as the season opener of "Ally McBeal"). But who knows? Perhaps this established author will treat the topic with the complexity and integrity it warrants. \$12 pb, 0-684-85207-1, February.

The Illusionist by Dinita Smith is a novel set in Sparta, New York. From the blurb: "Duane Lily, a beautiful, amateur magician, beguiles the local women with his tricks and his charms. The power of

Duane's magic goes beyond the passions he awakens and the needs he satisfies, however. A young woman disguised as a man, Duane has created an illusion that breaks through all accepted boundaries — an act of 'magic' that ultimately unleashes a destructive element that even he can't control..." Nothing in the text refers to Teena Brandon, the young woman passing as a man who charmed the women of Falls City, Nebraska, before being found out, raped, and killed by two of her male "friends," but it seems perhaps that this novel may have been inspired or influenced by her story. (*The Brandon Teena Story* is a documentary film produced in 1998; Teena Brandon was killed in 1994.) \$12 pb, 0-684-84819-8, March.

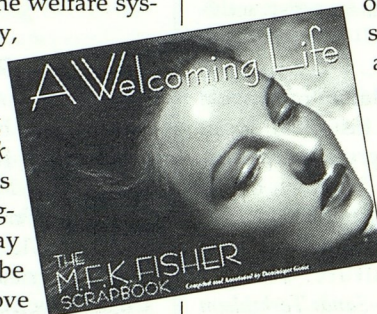
Mary Gordon's novel, **Spending**, is now available in paperback. Monica is a 51-year-old painter who longs for someone to take care of the details of her daily life. B, a commodities broker who collects her work, obliges her and gives her time, money, space, and sex (all necessary in the creation of art!). Soon Monica is successful, but B's resources are dwindling. The change in power affects every part of their relationship, including, as the blurb says, "some surprising, supremely satisfying changes in the bedroom." \$12, 0-684-85204-7, March.

Now in paperback: **The Rendezvous** by Justine Lévy is a wryly humorous and ironic novel about an 18-year-old woman's feelings toward her long-absent mother. \$11 pb, 0-684-84632-2, March. —TMR

Simon & Schuster

Susan Cheever was born into in a household that was ruled by the cocktail hour, and, through college and three failed marriages, her life was both deeply touched and troubled by alcohol. In **Note Found in a Bottle: My Life as a Drinker**, she writes of the effects that alcohol had on her life, in shaping her relationships with men, and in influencing her efforts as a writer. \$23 cl, 0-684-80432-8.

Lesley Stahl has been a reporter for CBS News for over 25 years and has been a correspondent for "60 Minutes" for the last eight years. **Reporting Live** is a memoir of her career in network news. \$25 cl, 0-684-82930-4



Composed of prayers, meditations, and journal entries, **Listening for God: A Believer's Journey Through Silence and Doubt** is Reverend Renita J. Weems's account of her own spiritual crisis. Reverend Renita J. Weems was named by *Ebony* as one of our era's 15 greatest Black Women preachers. \$22 cl, 0-684-83323-9.

Susan Maushart wrote the following about her book, **The Mask of Motherhood: How Becoming a Mother Changes Everything and Why We Pretend It Doesn't**: "In my research as a social scientist, and in my experience as the mother of three young children, I have been struck again and again by two observations: that women without children seem disturbingly unprepared for the challenges of motherhood, and women with children seem disturbingly unprepared to discuss those challenges.... I wish to offer the comfort that comes from learning that one is not alone; that the fears, frustrations, and confusions they are experiencing are not evidence of personal incompetence but the legacy of unworkable social structures and contradictory cultural demands." \$24 cl, 1-56584-483-1.

—Lisa McGowan

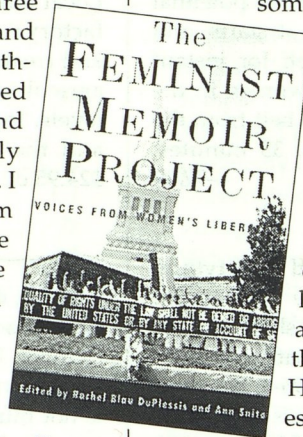
Iron Pots and Wooden Spoons by Jessica B.

Harris explores the influence of African cooking on Cajun, Creole, South American, and Caribbean cuisine. Includes 175 recipes that illustrate African cooking techniques, as well as historical and personal tidbits of Harris' family's cooking traditions. \$12 pb, 0-684-85326-4, February.

In the tradition of the bestselling *The Secret Language of Birthdays* comes **The Hidden World of Birthdays** by Judith Turner. This gift book explains what your birthdate reveals about you, including your spiritual guides, gemstone, flower, lucky numbers, guardian angel, and more. \$18 pb, 0-684-85798-7, March.

Our Children: Raising Hispanic Children in a Bicultural World by Gloria Rodriguez, Ph.D., tells parents how to raise their children for success in the world while preserving their cultural heritage. Rodriguez is the founder of Avance, an award-winning family support and education program for Latino parents. \$13 pb, 0-684-83969-5; Spanish edition, 0-684-84126-6.

Over 100 different Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys books are in print and are estimated to sell over 300,000 copies per year. After 70 years, why are kids still reading these books? And why are teen detectives Nancy, Joe, and Frank still so popular? In **The Mysterious Case of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys**, Carole Kismaric and Marvin Heiferman answer these questions and more as they track the major changes in American culture and teenage life from generation to generation. Strong-minded and fearless, teen detective queen Nancy offers girls something more than adventure: she is



their role model. Nancy performs faultlessly as a bareback rider at the circus; sends secret messages by tap-dancing in Morse code, and drives her blue roadster with astounding skill as she acts out girls' fantasies of power. The Hardys may find themselves locked in a railroad car, trapped by a thunderous avalanche, or lost in thick fog, but they'll always bounce back because they are the Hardy boys. Nancy Drew and the Hardy boys enthrall kids longing for escape, independence, and feelings of omnipotence. Hip and nostalgic, **The**

Mysterious Case of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys is an informed and witty exploration of a world where Frank, Joe, and Nancy make order out of chaos. \$20 pb, 0-684-84689-6.

—TMR

Sounds True

Spiritual Power, Spiritual Practice by two-time Oprah guest and bestselling author Caroline Myss is an original work available only in an audio edition. Myss says that without rigor and discipline, the full blessings of a spiritual life will never come. Here, Myss teaches a step-by-step daily program for recognizing, cultivating, and harnessing the massive spiritual power one is born with. Through these daily disciplines — including two complete 40-minute meditations — anyone can learn to tap the wellsprings of love, faith, and trust that energize spiritual potential. \$18.95 audio, 1-56455-647-6.

Who knew I would find myself reviewing a workout video in the pages of *FBN*? But in the case of **The Woman's Warrior Workout: The Maximum**

Self-Defense Conditioning Program by Melanie Murphy, I think it's appropriate. There's no spandex here; the **WWW** will teach you to train your body and your mind from the inside out for maximum self-confidence in any situation. Murphy shares the mental and physical building blocks of her StreetWise self-defense curriculum for women. From the box blurb: "No matter what your size or your athletic ability, you can learn this intense, concentrated conditioning program for mental, physical, and spiritual preparedness. Murphy covers the secret of making yourself an undesirable target for potential attackers, how to spot trouble before it starts, and mental techniques to prepare yourself for instant action." Murphy is one of only two women in the country to hold a fourth-degree black belt from the National Karate Association. \$19.95, 35 minutes, 1-56455-652-2. —TMR

Verso

In this reissue of **Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman**, Michèle Wallace "blasts the masculinist bias of 1960s Black politics, showing how women remained marginalized by the patriarchal culture of Black Power." \$16 pb, 1-85984-296-8, March.

Frigga Haug and the other authors of **Female Sexualization: A Collective Work of Memory** take as their themes "the sexualization of the body" and the construction of gender. Frigga Haug "bravely goes against the fashionable grain, working through dream, memory and experience, and revealing theoretical contours for a much-needed reorientation of socialist-feminist politics." \$18 pb, 1-85984-207-0, March.

In **Love in a Different Climate: The Meaning of Being Gay in South Asia**, Jeremy Seabrook "asks how valid Western models of sexual identity are in the South Asian context, and how effective they might be in dealing with global issues of sexual health, HIV awareness and gender politics." \$25 cl, 1-85984-837-0, March. —Dylan Besk



John Wiley & Sons

A searing chronicle of wartime experiences, **Even the Women Must Fight** by Karen Gottschang

Turner banishes the images of Vietnamese women as passive onlookers, war brides, prostitutes, or helpless refugees. It is estimated that 200,000 women were in the regular army of North Vietnam, the militia and local forces, and professional volunteer teams. These women operated underground communications networks, staffed and directed jungle clinics, recorded the war as journalists, ran jungle liaison stations and ammunition depots, led and served in combat platoons, made coffins and burial cloths, and collected and buried the dead. Local militawomen shot at American planes from factory rooftops and village fields, carried supplies, and treated the wounded — all while maintaining agricultural and industrial production at prewar levels. Includes military accounts, private writing, and the literature of Vietnam's American War. \$24.95 cl, 0-471-14689-7. —TMR

Gay Lit, continued from page 82.

bar-rag advice columnists. \$12.95 pb, 0-452-27815-5, October, Penguin.

Dawn Song by Michael Marano — There really is not much good gay-smart SF/fantasy being written; here's the best of the year, a hypnotic blend of horror and fantasy about a gay man whose life becomes entwined with the lusts of a succubus. Marano's prose is rendered with rare quality for the genre, and his tale will make the late-night reader shiver. \$24.95 cl, 0-312-86432-9, July, St. Martin's.

Oops: that's 15; well, it was a very good year.



As to the standout sapphic book of the year for me, that title goes to a late entry — Erika Lopez's absolutely smart and smartass cartoon/graphic/collage/text novel, **They Call Me Mad Dog: A Story for Bitter, Lonely People**; it's a brilliant third book, after *Flaming Iguanas* and *Lap Dancing for Mommy*, stuffed full of droll and adroit observations on the evil of love, the beauty of love, and the banality of love and life...with a politic completely unhindered by the rigidities of correct and incorrect: yum. \$20 cl, 0-684-84941-0, November, Simon & Schuster. ○

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Naked Keys or any of George Winston's work, be sure to hear this — it'll make a believer, as well as a frequent listener, out of you. Jamie Anderson recommends this one, and so do we. Sara McIntosh 1.

Sound Circle/Sound Circle. The repertoire of this 21-voice women's acappella ensemble includes music that speaks to the sounds, rhythms, and experiences of their own lives, and it emphasizes music by women. This first recording includes works by Sandra Washington, Ysase Maria Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock, Anne Lister, Rachel Bagby, Cris Williamson, and Holly Near. Recorded in-studio rather than live, gives it a qualitative edge over many choral releases. Libana fans and others should take note. Sound Circle 1598.

Weaving the Strands/Various Native American Women. Native American compilations abound, but thus far we have encountered none so lovely as this collection! Representing some of the most talented Native artists performing today, the track listing reads like a "Best of the Ladyslipper Native American Section." It contains some of the loveliest selections from twelve

albums (we stock eleven of them at this writing — and we can't wait to get information on the one we don't yet). Ulali, Walela (the Coolidge clan), Joanne Shenandoah, Sharon Burch, Mary Youngblood, Joy Harjo, Alice Gomez, The Mankillers, and Mishi Donovan contribute songs such as "Woman's Dance," "For Anna Mae Pictou Aquash," and more. Very highly recommended! Red Feather 3001.

Inkululeko/Inkululeko. The name comes from the South African Xhosa language and means "freedom, redemption, and emancipation. The group is an inspiring five-woman acappella world music ensemble from Austin, Texas, that performs choral pieces from South Africa, West Africa, and the African Diaspora, including the U.S., Cuba, Brazil, and Haiti, in addition to Eastern Europe and original improvisations. Their compositions are organically arranged with both tightly and freely voiced harmonies. Here, they have selected songs that represent a progression of life's themes, ranging from welcoming songs to songs that praise the Creator and the Great Mother, Yemaya. Inkululeko 1. ○

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Back to Press, continued from page 62.

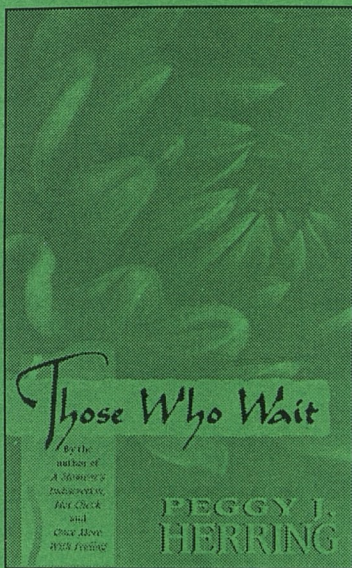
Ann Cameron (Frances Foster/FSG), Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos (FSG), *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War* by Anita Lobel (Greenwillow/Morrow), and *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck (Dial Books/Penguin). John Updike, a previous NBA and Pulitzer Prize winner, was awarded the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

The Astraea Foundation honored the 1998 Lesbian Writers Fund Award winners. Elena Georgiou, who received the \$10,000 poetry award, teaches creative writing at City College, City University of New York. She is the co-editor of *The World in US: Lesbian and Gay Poetry at the Beginning of the 21st Century*. Nina Revoyr, recipient of the \$10,000 fiction award, published *The Necessary Hunger* with Simon & Schuster

(the paperback is now out from St. Martin's) and is at work on her second novel. Katie Hern of San Francisco won the first Claire of the Moon Award, established by writer and filmmaker Nicole Conn to provide \$750 to the first runner-up in the fiction category. Hern is seeking a publisher for *Separation at Birth*, a collection of letters between her birth mother and herself during the first year of their reunion. The Astraea Foundation distributed more than \$324,000 in grants to a total of 97 organizations, 11 film/video projects, and 14 individuals in 1998. The grants fund local, national, and international work on issues affecting lesbians, as well as other women and queer allies.

Rights

Naiad Press has sold the Spanish rights to *Never Say Never* by Linda Hill to Egales Press of Madrid. ○



THOSE WHO WAIT

by Peggy J. Herring

Hot-shot attorney Mickey Marcaluso . . .

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Two sisters . . . in love with the same woman!

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WHISPERS IN THE WIND

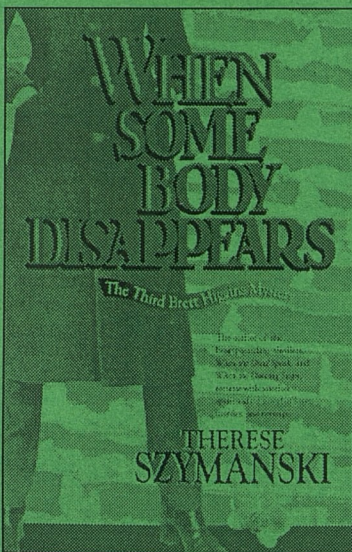
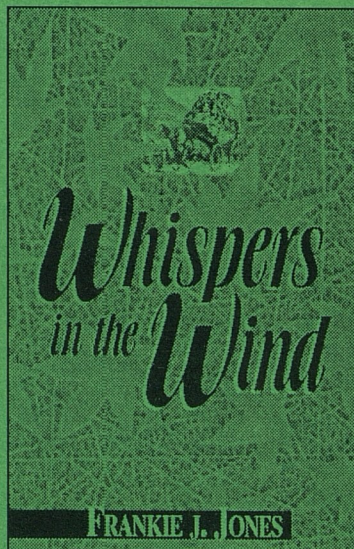
by Frankie J. Jones

Athletic photographer Dixon Hayes thinks she and her best friend, high school teacher Elizabeth Colter, are the perfect couple. Except for one little problem — Elizabeth is only interested in friendship.

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Handsome, street smart, and unabashedly butch, former underworld figure Brett Higgins is a different kind of woman who plays by a different set of rules. On the run and living under an assumed name, Brett's been trying hard to play it straight, but her past — and the women she attracts — won't seem to let her.

Under suspicion for a murder she didn't commit, Brett realizes that the only way to prove her innocence is to track down the killers herself. If the gamble plays out, Brett could be a free woman. But with the cops and her old enemies closing in fast, the ultimate player is now playing for the highest stakes of all — her life.

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Question:

What do Women's History Month, Black History Month, National Poetry Month, and Lesbian/Gay Book Month have in common?

Answer:

Pat Parker's *Movement In Black*.



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Pat Parker—that revolutionary, raw, and as they used to say, “right-on sister”—would be celebrating her fifty-fifth birthday in 1999 had she not died of breast cancer ten years ago. To honor her work and call attention to the significance of her contributions, Firebrand Books is publishing a new, expanded edition of her classic, *Movement In Black*.

With an incisive introduction by Cheryl Clarke, celebrations/remembrances/tributes from ten outstanding African American women writers (Donna Allegra, Angela Y. Davis, Toi Derricotte, Jewelle Gomez, Audre Lorde, Michelle Parkerson, Ann Allen Shockley, Barbara Smith, Pamela Sneed, and Evelyn C. White), and a dozen previously unpublished pieces, *Movement In Black* is a must read/must have on your shelves.