



Women in Libraries

Volume 30, No. 2

The Feminist Task Force

Spring 2001

FTF Makes ALA Endorsements

Veronda Pitchford - ALA Council

Theresa Tobin - ALA Council

Debra Gilchrist - ACRL Council

**Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman
ALA President**

Above are the endorsements made at the Feminist Task Force meetings at Midwinter Meeting. Freedman has long fought for free access and information equity, believing that a strong ALA is now more important than ever.

One of his positions is pay equity for all

library workers, an issue that he discussed at the January 15, 2001 FTF meeting. At this meeting he talked about how badly women are paid. "It's a helping profession," he said, "and they're always paid badly in comparison to other professions."

Freedman has been Chair of the Pay Equity Committee and served on COSWL. One of his proposed projects is a tool kit for library directors to use in asking for better salary support for library staff, using comparable qualifications/competencies/etc. "We're got to set a standard for the right thing," he said. "We need something we can point to, and ALA needs to put its resources behind it."

In his own library (the Westchester Library System) he proposed to trustees that there be a domestic partners benefit equal to those with marriage licenses.

Have you gotten your ballot? Mailings were to begin on March 5 and be completed on March 30. If you have not received your ballot by April 13, call 800-545-2433. Press 5 for Customer Service. Or you can e-mail membership at membership@ala.org. April 27 is the last day ballots will be accepted. On May 3, the ALA Election Committee will certify and distribute the election results. To vote you must have been a member on January 31. If your membership expired in December, do not worry. All members have a three-months grace period of membership after the expiration date. Please vote!

Notes

The School of Information Studies at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY has an award competition for librarians in all areas of the profession. The 21st-Century Librarian Award will recognize a librarian who has been a leader in the evolution of librarianship in our increasingly global and digital information environment. The award is a project of students in Syracuse's MLS program, who have developed the criteria for the award and will judge the applications and make the final decisions. This is the first annual competition for what may become a major award in the field. This year's award carries a cash prize of \$5,000.

Candidates for the award may be nominated by others or may submit applications on their own behalf. The deadline for applications is March 30, 2001; third-party nominations must have been submitted by February 28, 2001. Details about the 21st-Century Librarian Award are available at <http://istweb.syr.edu/librarianaward/>

Women & the Silent Screen (November 2-4, 2001; Department of Film & Digital Media; University of California-Santa Cruz; <http://artstream.ucsc.edu/womensilentscreen>)

This conference will bring together for the first time scholars working on women's contributions to the early film industry as directors, screenwriters, stars, columnists, fans, social reformers, and theorists. Our purpose is to take stock of this emerging field; to share research, approaches, and resources; and to plan together the directions our work might take over the next few years. We hope that scholarship produced at this event will transform not only who is included in histories of the medium but also how that history is written. We therefore encourage broad and imaginative conceptions in such areas as authorship, women's labor, stardom, international cinema, and film history itself. Also planned is a film series that will showcase the contributions of early women directors, screenwriters, and stars and include other innovative materials in an on-site exhibit.

Possible paper and panel topics may include Reformers, Activists, and Educators; Race and Ethnicity in Early Stardom; Theories of Female Authorship; Lost Films, Lost Histories; The Culture of Early Hollywood; International Silent Stars; Women, Modernism, and Film Theory; Targeting Women in Exhibition and Reception; The Female

(Continued on Page 3)



FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

Women in Libraries

<http://www.lib.wayne.edu/ftf/>

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Personnel: Nel Ward, Editor, Newport, OR; Sherre Harrington, Media Review Editor, Vanderbilt Science Library, Diedre Conkling, Publisher, Lincoln County Library District (OR); Theresa Tobin, Listserv Administrator, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

To subscribe to the Feminist List, send this e-mail message to: listserv@mitvma.mit.edu:

subscribe feminist firstname lastname

Send articles, comments, or materials for review, but not subscription questions, to Nel Ward, 107 SW Coast Street, Newport, OR 97365. (541-265-9141; email - nward@beachhousebb.com)

Send books for review to Sherre Harrington, Stevenson Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240. For reviewing information, go to <http://staffweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/feministbooks>.

Notes

(Continued from Page 2)

Body in Motion; Flappers, Comedians and Serial Queens; Marriage and Domesticity in Early Star Discourse; Memoirs, Biography and Autobiography; Women Writing on Early Cinema; and Women's Labor and Production in the Early Studio System.

Possible workshop topics may include Working with Private Collectors and Collections; Film Restoration and Preservation; Reconsidering Authorship; and other topics useful to scholars working in the field.

Proposals may be for individual papers, for organized panels of 3-4 participants, or for workshops. Proposals for papers or workshops should be 350-400 words. These should be accompanied with a short biographical statement.

Submit proposals before April 30, 2001:
Email: stamp@cats.ucsc.edu or ahastie@cats.ucsc.edu

Fax: 1-831-459-3535 (Attn.: Shelley Stamp & Amelie Hastie)

Mail: Shelley Stamp & Amelie Hastie, Department of Film & Digital media, Porter Faculty Services, University of California, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA

The National Coalition for Sexual Freedom is proud to sponsor the 1st National Conference on Gender and 6th Annual Lobby Day, May 18-21 in Washington, DC. This exciting weekend will feature three days of workshops, policy, politics, and strategy on everything from gender law, gender and racism, and gender discrimination on the job to gender in the new cinema (*Boys Don't Cry*, etc.), gender-based violence, gender and feminism, and issues of queer and trans youth and elderly.

The 1st National Conference on Gender and 6th Annual Lobby Day is hosted by Gender PAC, the national advocacy organization working

to ensure every American's right to their gender, free from stereotypes, discrimination, and violence, regardless of how they look, act, or dress or how others perceive their sex or sexual orientation.

More information is available at (202)462-6610, www.gpac.org/ncg, or NCG@gpac.org.

Preregistration is now open for the **Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference: Futures of the Field: Building GLBT Studies into the 21st Century University**, April 20-21, 2001. The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the City University of New York is hosting a conference on the topic of institutionalizing queer/GLBT/sexuality studies programs in the university. The conference will address the practical issues faced by those creating GLBT and sexuality programs and courses of study, as well as some of the larger questions raised by the creation of these programs.

Does queer/sexuality/GLBT studies have its own disciplinarity? What effect does the privatization of the university and of funding have on the GLBT studies program? How does GLBT studies or queer theory get taught in the social sciences?

The tentative program will be posted at <http://www.clags.org>. If you have any questions, email clags@gc.cuny.edu or call the CLAGS office at (212)817-1955.

Since the early 1980s, *Lilith*, a respected refereed journal, has provided a forum for quality articles and book reviews relating to feminist history. For the past few years it has lain dormant, leaving a considerable gap in publishing opportunities for scholars working in the area. The current editorial collective has decided there is a need for *Lilith* to be revived, revitalized, and refreshed, ready for the 21st century.

Accordingly the editors are now seeking articles for Volume 11, to be published in 2001. Submissions of historical articles of 5000 words (not
(Cont. on Page 4)

Notes

(Cont. from Page 3)

including endnotes) focusing on women, gender, sexuality, or related issues, from a variety of perspectives, will be welcome. One hard copy and a copy on disc (preferably Word 6 or later) of all articles should be submitted by March 30, 2001.

Further information and style guide is available from Lilith Editorial Collective (Jane Carey, Monica Dux, Katherine Ellinghaus, Nikki Henningham, Ann Standish, Ellen Warne) - <http://www.history.unimelb.edu.au/lilith/index.html> or history-lilith@unimelb.edu.au or Department of History, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010

WE LEARN (Women Expanding : Literacy Education Action Resource Network) values and promotes literacy and literature for all women. Toward this end, it is launching a research study on women-centered/women-positive basic literacy materials. Although this research project will work closely with adult women learners and literacy educators, librarians who work in collections development or who maintain a selection of literacy materials in their libraries are invited to participate.

Libraries that support literacy programs in their building are also encouraged to respond. Initial participation involves responding to a questionnaire seeking information about what women-centered literacy materials exist in library collections; how they were found and what was the selection criteria; if adult learner patrons request or use women-centered literacy materials; and what literacy resources and materials are still needed in this area. The questionnaire for librarians can be found at www.litwomen.org/libq.html. Hard copies will be mailed upon request. The deadline for participation is July 1, 2001.

A final report will be provided in print format to the respondents, to the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) at ALA, and posted on www.litwomen.org/WLindex.html, the WE LEARN website. Possibilities also exist for librarians to participate in the long-term efforts and

projects of WE LEARN.

Women and girls need and deserve access to a variety of creative educational opportunities, programs, resources, and materials at all levels of readability. WE LEARN has been established to maintain a resource list of women-centered/women-positive adult basic English literacy materials that help women understand their situations as women; to create a resource center/clearinghouse dedicated to the publishing, review, networking, and distribution of women-centered literacy resources and materials; and to develop a network of learners, literacy workers, librarians, educators, and writers committed to and involved in the process of creating and distributing women-centered or feminist adult basic literacy materials.

To obtain more information about this project, to get a copy of the questionnaire, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Mev Miller at 1483 Laurel Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104-6737 (phone) 651-646-0097; (fax) 651-646-1153; (email) mev@litwomen.org. Additional information can be found on the WE LEARN website at www.litwomen.org/WLindex.html.

Question from the Press: I'm a newspaper reporter for *The Blade* of Toledo, OH, writing an article about the status of sexism and feminism in the new millennium. Seems there's not much talk or fervor about sexism these days. Why? Where does sexism lurk? Could you recommend an articulate person for me to speak with? (Particularly someone in the Ohio-Michigan area.) Thanks, Tahree Lane, 419-724-6075.

From Kenneth Middleton: "Librarians who are planning activities/websites for women's history month may want to note the following additions to my website, American Women's History: A Research Guide (<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/html>). This links to over 100 collections plus online archives of interviews, speeches, and documentaries that address specific women's history topics."

FTF Starts Feminist Booklist for Young Readers

At its Midwinter meeting, the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable decided to prepare an annual bibliography of books with strong feminist messages that are recommended for young people from birth to age 18 years and that have been published within the past 18 months. The purpose of the list is to communicate to the public young people's literature that is "Feminist Friendly" or encourages gender equity.

A group of interested FTF members prepared suggested policies and procedures at the conference and submitted it to the FTF listserv for feedback. At this time, the bibliography is called "Feminist Books for Youth Project: The Amelia Bloomer List." It will contain titles and brief descriptions of quality fiction and nonfiction books, mainstream and small press) that affirm positive roles for girls and women with an attempt to present a variety of reading tastes and levels.

The target audience is both young people and interested adults. The list would be distributed in print and on web sites to libraries, bookstores, Head Start and other state agencies, and other institutions that might find such a list of interest.

Project members welcome all recommendations for the list that are original publications during the current calendar year or have been published from July to December of the previous calendar year.

A group of nine members will be responsible for reading, nominating, and discussing books with much of this activity carried out electronically with nominated books available on FEMINIST, the listserv of the Feminist Task Force. Voting will take place at Midwinter, and the announcement of the booklist will follow voting, beginning with the 2002 conference.

The Project is still looking for members. Interested parties or individuals wishing more information about "Bloomers" may contact Jenny Baltes (jenny_baltes@hotmail.com; 349 Point 2 Point Road, Bel-Air, MD 21015; 410-569-5005)

At the January 13, 2001 FTF meeting,

Theresa Tobin also gave a report on the listserv (feminist@mitvma.mit.edu). According to Tobin, the list has grown slightly and now includes 873 members. About 85% are from the U. S., 10% from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth (Australia is high), and 5% from other countries.

A plus for moderating the list is that spam and commercial advertising are kept off the list. Also not allowed are position announcements without salary or salary ranges. In addition, the moderator communicates with those who posted the positions about FTF's stand on publishing salary: Some are returned with salary information while others respond saying that their Human Resources are not willing to post one. As a result, "a small amount of consciousness raising on this issue is accomplished," according to Tobin.

A minus is that when the moderator is away or unable to read e-mail, the list is silent. There was a discussion about recruiting a second moderator.

Diedre Conkling, a member of COO, reported that an area of interest in their discussions this conference is electronic membership. The issues of voting, especially in Member Meetings, may well have a great long-range impact.

At the second FTF meeting on January 15, it was decided that the program at Annual in San Francisco would be on "looksism" and ageism in job discrimination. The program is scheduled for Sunday, 8:00-10:00 pm. FTF will also host Introduction to Women's Groups at 2001 Annual conference. Diedre Conkling will organize this.

<http://www.TransitionWatch.org>

The Feminist Majority Foundation, with ACLU, Greenpeace, and the International Campaign for Tibet has created a website to monitor President Bush's first 100 days in office. TransitionWatch aims to make sure concerned progressive voters get the information they need to know what's going on and can take action immediately. For the latest Feminist Majority Foundation news, visit <http://www.feminist.org>.

Follow-up

In 1999 Professor Mary Daly was ousted from her tenured post at Boston College without due process because she insisted on separate sections on feminist ethics for women and men. Daly had been following this procedure for over 20 years when the Center for Individual Rights (CIR), a conservative Washington-based law firm, threatened to sue Boston College for "sex discrimination" in October 1998.

Refusing to support a long-standing faculty member, Boston College falsely claimed that Daly had agreed to retire. She responded by filing a lawsuit against Boston College.

The case was on the verge of going to trial, with jury selection scheduled to be on February 7, when Daly announced five days before that the case had settled out of court. Daly's attorney, Gretchen Van Ness, stated, "We are confident that, after hearing all of the testimony, the jury would have ruled in our favor and found that Professor's Daly's tenure rights and academic freedom had been trampled."

The terms of the settlement are confidential. Daly is now working on her next book, *Amazon Grace*, which will include an examination of these events. Daly will continue her speaking tour, titled "Rekindling the Fires of Feminist Fury."

The Mary Daly Defense Fund is an all-volunteer organization formed to support Mary Daly in her lawsuit against Boston College by raising funds. Information about this can be obtained from Gretchen Van Ness at (617)723-5060.

In the last issue of *Women in Libraries*, we discussed concerns with current advertising and its influence on women's issues. Fortunately, a group of women is acting on their concerns.

Chalk up a victory for GraceNet, a San Francisco women's technology organization that in September started giving monthly "awards" to companies that put out the most offensive ads toward women. On January 16, 2001, the CEO of the parent company that won the December "Dis-Graceful" award—for an ad that shows a blond

woman in black leather, mask, and dog collar selling databases—said he fired everyone involved in creating it.

Vin Gupta of InfoUSA, a database firm in Omaha, said he learned about the ad for subsidiary InfoUSA.com in Foster City, CA the prior week when he received angry letters from customers, and he only heard about the award that week when contacted by a reporter.

The ad, in the December 11, 2000 issue of the Internet business magazine *The Industry Standard*, "was repulsive—without any sensitivity toward women," he said.

Sylvia Paull, founder of the 1,000-member GraceNet, is "delighted this guy fired the staff." But, she added, "I'm rather suspicious that the week his company received the award, he decided to fire the staff. I just think it's an amazing coincidence since the ad has been out for over a month." The award's press release went out the week before the CEO's action.

Paull says two other awardees of the five so far have pulled their ads. The awards are intended to raise awareness—and change the industry. "By having the subject out in the public and having women, and men, aware, they're going to think twice about creating ads that depict women in degrading positions. But if no one complains, it's not going to make any difference."

(USA Today, 1/17/01)

[Ed. Note: The most offensive ad that I've seen lately was published in *USA Today* on January 17, 2001. On a full-page spread, with photographs of President-Elect Bush and then-candidate for attorney general John Ashcroft (looking rather twinish) were the words "DEFENDING A PRESIDENT'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE" printed in type almost as large as the photographs. The advertising came from "Center for Reclaiming America" with website listed as www.reclaimamerica.org. It seems that "choice" is in the eye of the beholder.]

Pritchard & Dunn Win ACRL/WSS AWARDS

Sarah Pritchard, librarian at University of California Santa Barbara, has been announced as the winner of the Award for Career Achievement, sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc. This award honors significant, long-standing contributions to the field of Women's Studies librarianship over the course of a career.

Her contributions to development and vitality of the field of women's studies librarianship are unparalleled. These achievements are particularly distinctive in that they encompass all four criteria for this award: organizational service in ACRL/WSS; academic research library service in women's studies; research and publication in the areas of academic research services in women's studies; and planning and implementation of exemplary academic research programs in women's studies.

Sarah's scholarship, advocacy, and leadership have been crucial to the very existence of women's studies librarianship. Her early work at the Library of Congress signaled the beginning of an information infrastructure for women's studies. That infrastructure was further developed through her creation in 1990 of the RLG Conspectus for Women's Studies, which put Women's Studies on the bibliographical map.

Her impact has extended over nearly two decades through numerous publications and presentations addressing an astonishing range of topics including the research needs of women's studies, women's studies and library collection development, database evaluation, the challenges of preserving women's history, and feminism and information technology.

Moreover, while she has risen to the top of her profession, Sarah has never lost sight of her roots, serving not only as an exemplary role model but also as an active mentor to many other feminist and women's studies librarians. Her record of scholarly contributions, consistent participation in

WSS, and continued leadership in the advancement of women's studies librarianship are second to none.

Marilyn Dunn, winner of the Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship sponsored by Routledge and librarian at Hartwick College, has made a significant contribution to interdisciplinary scholarship in women's studies through her dedicated work as managing editor of *Matrix*, a web database of primary and secondary materials that describes medieval women's religious communities (<http://matrix.bc.edu>).

Largely through Marilyn's leadership and coordination, *Matrix* represents a singular collaboration among scholars, librarians, and technology specialists to advance and disseminate knowledge in this neglected field and to make it easily and freely accessible via the Web.

The development of this unique web resource has encouraged and facilitated the study of women and religion in the Middle Ages. At Hartwick College, this has not only resulted in a new course on Medieval Women and Religion taught by Ms. Dunn and in the further development of library collections to support this new scholarship but also contributed to college recognition of the value of women's studies and helped lead to the first tenure-track line in the field.

Ms. Dunn has played a pivotal role in the creation of a model resource within women's studies librarianship. Her achievements signify the possibilities for and growing recognition of the intellectual and creative contributions of librarians to the vitality and advancement of women's studies.

ACRL invites all WSS members and friends to join in congratulating Sarah and Marilyn at the WSS awards ceremony, which will take place at 9:30 am on June 18, 2001 at the beginning of the Women's Studies Section annual program in San Francisco.

Awards Ceremony:

9:30 am, 6/18/01

*At the start of the
Women's Studies Section
program in San
Francisco*

U.S. Congress Repeals OSHA Standard

Much has been noted about the first two months of President Bush's rule regarding his anti-abortion, pro-faith, anti-environment stands. One action, taken supposedly without his knowledge but surely with his support, is the repeal of the workplace ergonomics standard established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to prevent repetitive strain injuries and carpal tunnel syndrome. Every year, over 600,000 US workers suffer painful repetitive strain and back injuries on

the job: 64% of these are women.

The measure cleared the House on a largely party-line vote of 223-306, less than 24 hours after Senate passage on March 7 of a 56-44 vote. The repealed regulations would have covered 102 million workers at 6.1 million work sites and, according to OSHA, prevented 4.6 million musculoskeletal disorders, meaning an average annual savings to business of \$9.1 billion in the first 10 years they were in effect.

Buffy Sainte-Marie to Close ALA Session

This year's Annual Conference closing session (Tuesday, June 19, 8:30-9:30 am) is a woman known as an Academy Award-winning songwriter ("Up Where We Belong" from the movie *An Officer and a Gentleman*). Also a woman with academic accolades, Buffy Sainte-Marie is credited with the development of the Cradleboard Teaching Project, which dramatically affects the future of Native American and non-Indian students across America. As part of this project, classes in 13 states are now participating in a cutting-edge initiative to raise self-esteem in all children through cross-cultural exchange with kids on the reservations, using classroom computers and accurate core curriculum.

Since 1968, Sainte-Marie has used her songwriting revenues to provide scholarships and operate the Nihewan Foundation for American Indian Education, whose Cradleboard Teaching Project now provides both curriculum and connectivity to partnerships of Native American and Mainstream classes in Grades 3-12. For information about this project visit www.cradleboard.org.

Born at the Piapot (Cree) Reserve in Saskatchewan and raised in Maine and Massachusetts, Sainte-Marie earned a degree in Oriental Philosophy, a teacher's degree, and a Ph.D. in Fine Arts, all from the University of Massachusetts.

Feminist Collections Searches for Web Reviewers

Most issues of *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources* (University of Wisconsin System) publish reviews of topics on the web, describing and evaluating the best sites from a women's studies perspective. Web reviews are on the *Feminist Collections* page at [http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/Women's Studies/fcmain/htm](http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/Women's%20Studies/fcmain/htm), covering such topics as reproductive rights, lesbians resources, medieval history, eating disorders, women's human rights, and poetry.

Editor Phyllis Holman Weisbard is seeking reviewers for additional topics as well as revisiting some of the past topics where the information is out-of-date. Possible subjects are artists, abortion, fat acceptance, girls, women in various countries and regions of the world, and various women's writers.

Anyone interested in writing website reviews should contact JoAnne Lehman, editor, *Feminist Collections*, jlehman@library.wisc.edu.

Book Talk

The feminist press Spinsters Ink has been acquired by Hovis Publishing Co. from Joan Drury, the owner of the company for the last eight years. Based in Denver, Hovis publishes the monthly newspaper *Colorado Woman News*, as well as an annual women's yellow pages, *Colorado Women 2001 Directory*. The purchase includes about 50 titles.

Kathy Hovis, president of Hovis Publishing, has become publisher of Spinsters Ink, while Sharon Silvas, editor-in-chief of *Colorado Woman News*, will serve in a similar capacity for the book imprint. Claire Kirsh, marketing and publicity director for Spinsters Ink, will handle those duties for Hovis on a consulting basis.

The purchase of Spinsters Ink marks Hovis's entrance into book publishing: "We thought it was a good segue," Silvas said, noting that both she and Hovis have "long been concerned about keeping women's voices heard." Two new titles are set for publication in September, and six are scheduled for release in 2002. Silvas said that once "we get our feet wet, we plan to grow the list."

Among the company's best-selling titles are *Lesbian Sex*, *Mother Journeys*, *Turnip Blues*, and *Cancer in Two Voices* as well as Val McDermid's Lindsay Gordon mystery series. Silvas said Drury decided to sell the press to concentrate on her writing, and she hopes to sign Drury to write for Spinsters Ink.

(*Publishers Weekly*, 1/15/01)

From MIT Press comes this recommendation for *Women Becoming Mathematicians: Creating a Professional Identity in Post-War II America* by Margaret A. M. Murray. This book looks at the lives and careers of 36 of the approximately 200 women who earned Ph.D.s in mathematics from American institutions from 1940 to 1959. During this period, American mathematical research enjoyed an unprecedented expansion, fueled by the technological successes of World War II

and the postwar boom in federal funding for education in the basic sciences. Yet women's share of doctorates earned in mathematics in the United States reached an all-time low. This book explores the complex interplay between the personal and professional lives of those women who embarked on mathematical careers during this period, with a view to understanding how changes in American society during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s af-

Women's share of doctorates earned in mathematics in the United States reached an all-time low.

affected their career development and identities as mathematicians. The book is based on extensive interviews with the 36 women mathematicians of the postwar generation, as well as primary and secondary historical and sociological research. Taking a life-course approach, the book examines the development of mathematical identity across the life span, from childhood through adulthood and into retirement.

For more information, visit <http://mit-press.mit.edu/promotions/books/MURWHF00>.

An enlightening portrayal of smart women in our culture, *Where Have All the Smart Women Gone?* (Alice Rowe, Smart People Books, ISBN 0-9703-89-0-6, \$12.95) encourages women to celebrate their innate intelligence and capabilities. As women strive to achieve professional success and recognition, they feel societal pressure to assume more conventional roles. Women sometimes find themselves "dumbing down," pretending to be not as competent as they know they are. Rowe attempts to answer the question of what happens in our culture to create this and other situations in which women do not live the life they feel they can because of what others might think or do or believe in response.

Small Press Books Recommended by ABA

Atomic Farmgirl: The Betrayal of Chief Qualchan, the Appaloosa, and Me, Teri Hein (Fulcrum, \$22.95, 1555914438): Hein grew up on a wheat farm 100 miles downwind from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. She mingles the simple beauty of her childhood with the heritage of the land and, unavoidably, the tragedy wrought in the lives of her loved ones. Read it for history, for humor, for heartache. (Mary Kooyman, Scott's Bookstore, Mount Vernon, WA)

Cool for You, Eileen Myles (Soft Skull Press, \$14 paper, 188712859X): Poet Eileen Myles transforms a slew of autobiographical material into a narrative that is as bleak as it is redemptive. Each page is imbued with the kind of tone that you want to hear when you pick up the phone late at night and it's a friend calling to catch up. Dark, hip, astonishingly bright. (Tom Padilla, Posman Books @NYU, New York, NY)

Fifth Life of the Catwoman, Kathleen Dexter (Arania Books, \$14.95 paper 0965177009): A fairy tale/love story/social commentary juxtaposition of two people brought back together after four lifetimes. (Cheryl Townsend, cat's Impetuous Books, Kent, OH)

Here in the World: 13 Stories, Victoria Lancelotta (Counterpoise, \$23, 1582430993): Somehow fierce and detached at the same time, this slim volume of stories gives a glimpse into the confused erotic world of young women trying to find their identity somewhere between the Catholic Church and the modern world. Stunning and wise, these stories present a clear look into the edges of passion. (Joy Allen, David-Kidd Booksellers, Memphis, TN)

The Interpreter, Suzanne Glass (Steerforth, \$22, 1586420038): A moral dilemma awaits Dominique, a simultaneous interpreter, and Nicholas, a young physician turned researcher, in this novel set in contemporary New York. Told in alternating chapters, this beautiful and insightful novel moves towards a very powerful finish.

(Penny McConnel, The Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT)

Miss Garnet's Angel, Sally Vickers (Carroll & Graf, \$25, 0786708239): In Venice, Miss Garnet metamorphoses from reserved English schoolteacher to budding sensualist while learning to move from within to the outside world of caring. A life that goes from the mundane to the transcendent. (Lilla Weinberger, Readers' Books, Sonoma, CA)

Native Tongue, Suzette Hadin Elgin (Feminist, \$14.95 paper, 1558612467): A story of women patiently and painstakingly creating a new language for the telling of new experience and emancipation from control. A reissue of the classic tale of the power of language to shape perception of the world. (Melissa Horrar, R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison, CT)

Slow Emergencies, Nancy Huston (Steerforth, \$19, 1883642639): In a complex, disturbing, and elegant novel from the author of *Mark of the Angel*, a woman is torn between love of family and commitment to her art. (Susanne Champlin, Dartmouth Bookstore, Hanover, NH)

Star in My Forehead, Else Lasker-Schuler (Holy Cow Press/Consortium, \$12.95 paper, 0930100883): These poems are excavations of the soul; her words are fragments of an internal city of experience. A remarkable collection, it remains a lyric testimony to the incalculable depth of the heart. (Karen Wallace, Dutton's Brentwood Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA)

The Tiger Rising, Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press, \$12.99, 0763606110): When confronted by a caged tiger, the two main characters' perceptions of freedom and happiness are transformed. After a dizzying sequence of events, their individual passions are granted wings—and stripes—and their lives are forever altered. Seemingly small characters turn into larger-than-life personalities. (Collette Morgan, Wild Rumpus, Minneapolis, MN)

Book Notes

Upstart Press announces the publication of *Psappha—A Story of Sappho* by Peggy Ullman Bell (0-9701274-0-0; \$14.95).

Lesbians of Color over Fifty: A Study of Multi-Ethnic Attitudes and Coming-Out Stories. Editors Elizabeth Rodriguez Kessler and Maria C. Gonzalez wish to receive personal narratives from lesbians of color over fifty for a new anthology. These narratives need to address the intersections of diverse issues and attitudes: culture, religion, ethics, family (parents, siblings, relatives, as well as husbands, children, and grandchildren), politics, age, career and colleagues, friendships, same-sex spouses, family of same-sex spouses, and other attitudes that have a clear and important impact on one's decision to self-disclose. The form should be a personal narrative that may include other genres (poetry, lyrics, diary entries, letters, and so forth).

Manuscripts should not exceed 20 double-spaced, typed pages. Please use 12-point font and submit a Macintosh diskette, using Word 5.0 or later and two hard copies. The deadline for submission is July 1, 2001. Early submissions are encouraged. Include your e-mail address as well as other contact information. Send to Elizabeth Kessler, Department of English, California State University at Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8248. For inquiries and more detailed information, e-mail elizabeth.kessler@csun.edu or mgonzalez@uh.edu.

[http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/Women's Studies/core/coremain.htm](http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/Women's%20Studies/core/coremain.htm) is the address for topical book lists compiled by members of the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Megan Adams (Swarthmore) and Bernice Redfern (San Jose State) are general editors of the project.

Because the lists include only books currently in print, they can serve as a guide to teaching faculty in selecting available course readings. They also assist librarians in building women's studies

collections. There are now 40 lists on subjects ranging from agriculture and international politics to feminist pedagogy, lesbian studies, and visual arts.

The focus of the lists is on women in the United States. Each list consists of 20 to 75 titles with the most important five to ten titles starred. The lists are updated each January; titles no longer in print are dropped, and newly published titles added.

The first Kate Chopin Literary Award has been given to Elizabeth Gilbert for *Stern Men* (Houghton-Mifflin, 2000). Presented annually by the Kate Chopin Society and the Kirkwood (MO) Public Library, this award honors a novel published in the previous year which contains a female character who, like Edna Pontellier in Chopin's *The Awakening*, goes beyond the expected boundaries for and constrictions upon female behavior. The author will accept the award at a ceremony during the third annual Chopin Festival at Kirkwood Public Library on April 21. Further information is available from Wicky Sleight, Director, Kirkwood Public Library, 140 E. Jefferson, Kirkwood, MO 63122; (phone) 314-821-3849; (fax) 314-822-3755; (e-mail) jtz000@mail.comnect.more.net

More Reviews from ABA Members

Poemcrazy: Freeing Your Life with Words, Susan Goldsmith Wooldridge (Three Rivers, \$13 paper, 0-609-800098-1): "I have read dozens of books on writing. Unfortunately, that is all I usually do. *Poemcrazy* actually got me writing again. No grim mechanical exercises here: Wooldridge's ideas are lively and fresh." (Laura Hansen, *Bookin' It*, Little Falls, MN)

And not a small press book, but a fascinating writer—*Folly*, Laurie R. King (Bantam, \$23.95, 0-553-11103-5): A tale of a woman coming to grips with her sanity after losing her husband and daughter. (Jean Utey, *Book'em Mysteries*, South Pasadena, CA)

Voting Endorsements/Information - Page 1
Notes (Syracuse Award/Women & the Silent Screen) - Page 2
Notes (Gender Issues/Lilith) - Page 3
Notes (WE LEARN/Women's History Websites) - Page 4
Feminist Booklist for Young Readers/FTF Meetings - Page 5
Follow-up (Mary Daly/Advertising) - Page 6
ACRL/WSS Awards - Page 7
OSHA Standards Lost/Sainte-Marie at ALA/Reviewers Needed
for *Feminist Collections* - Page 8
Booktalk - Pages 9-11



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