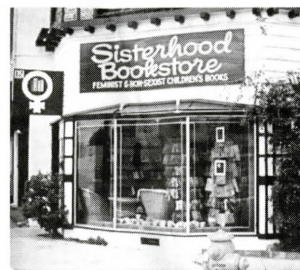
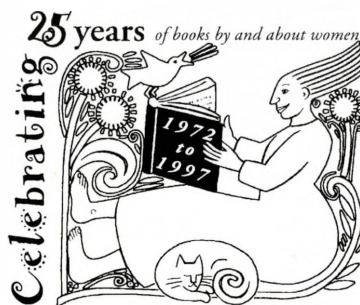


Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Sisterhood Bookstore

... and the longevity of feminism and
feminists in Los Angeles

still here

**Sunday, November 23, 1997
at the Skirball Cultural Center**



Thanks to Sisterhood Readers & Speakers 1972-1997

Starhawk
Katherine Forrest
Nancy Wilson
Achy Obejas
Gerda Lerner
Sarah Jacobus
Tova Perschuk
Norma Fain Pratt
Dinah Berland
Hindi Brooks
Carol Davis
Marlene Adler Marks
Marcia Falk
Anne Roiphe
Joan Borysenko
Cecilia Manguerra Brainard
Roxane Aver
Carolyn McVickar Edwards
Leslie Feinberg
Barbara Dugan
Stephanie Grant
Rita Mae Brown
Aleida Rodriguez
Deena Metzger
Andrea Dworkin
Susan Rennie
Paula GunnAllen
Carol Pearson
Barrie Levy
Doris Davenport
Ronnie Kaye
Lonnie Barbach
Erica Bauermeister
Lynn Sherr
Kirstan Grimstead
Terri de la Pena
Susan Siltan
Vickie Noble
Linda Smuckler
Kay Turner
Alicia Ostriker
Dr. Susan Love
Tracy Moore
Millie Ben David
Kate Chandler
Sarah Jacobus
Yaffa Weisman
Marie Cartier
Octavia Butler
Penelope Moffet
Eloise Klein Healy
May Sarton
Peggy Orenstein
Jacqueline de Angelis
Sandra Golvin
Lisa Jones
Lucy Jane Bledsoe
Barbara Neely
Shera Gluck

Sondra Hale
Elabe Amani
Donna Cassyd
Melody Chiong
Akua Jitahadi
Jean Melley
Cristina Regalado
Nayerreh Tohidi
Mary Beth Welch-Orozo
Nicole Conn
Roxane Auer
Leslie Feinberg
Urvashi Vaid
Stephanie Grant
Patricia Nell Warren
Mary Helen Ponce
Laurel Ann Bogen
Melinda Popham
Doraine Poretz
Helena Maria Viramontes
Joyce Delaney
Elyse Resch
Marjorie Garber
Angela Davis
Robin Morgan
Septima Clark
Riane Eisler
Sheila Rowbotham
Anne Wilson Schaefer
Z Budapest
Katherine Forrest
Tee Corinne
Starhawk
Mary Tyler
John Laslett
Andy Rose
Denise Eger
Sue Elwell
Agnes Herman
Janet Marder
Marija Gimbutas
Loralee MacPike
Lynn Andrews
Elinor Gadon
Karla Jay
Cynthia Fuchs Epstein
Brenda Osbey
Judy Fjell
Michelle Cliff
Laura Davis
Judith Freeman
Itabari Njeri
Carmen de Monteflores
Anne Finger
Sarah Schulman
Barbara Wilson
Sandra Martz
Luisah Teish
Arlene Raven

Cris Williamson
Alice Bloch
Lillian Faderman
Barbara Smith
Cherrie Moraga
Susan Griffin
Kim Chernin
Becky Chalker
Suzann Gage
Meg Christian
Wilmette Brown
Selma James
Judy Grahn
Holly Near
Wanda Coleman
Jane Rule
Mitsuye Yamada
Nellie Wong
Charlotte Rubinstein
Paule Marshall
Rosemary Radford Ruether
Norma Alicia Pino
Guadalupe Espinoza
Zulma Duran
Vivian Varela
Yreina Cervantez
Marilynn Cruz Rodriguez
Sibyl Venegas
Frances Salome Espana
Anna Hernandez
Jill Johnston
Germaine Greer
Savina Teubal
Gloria Orenstein
Rosemary Curb
Nancy Manahan
Jeanne Cordova
Marilyn French
Ntozake Shange
Alice Patrick
Betty Brooks
Diane Germain
Carmen Silva
Sharon Sievers
Terry Wolverton
Kate Braverman
Phranc
Charlene Spretnak
Carol Lem
Wendy Glenn
Frances Espana
Terry Hunter
Gaila Patrice-Turner
Donna Mungen
Sandy Shepherd
Abbe Land
Judy Abdo
Kerry Noonan
Jill Remez

Judith Barrington
Margaret Cruikshank
Pauline Bart
Elinor Lenz
Connie Horak
Jane Jacqueline
Ginny Foat
Sandra Cisneros
Jane Wagner
Lily Tomlin
Chrystos
Jane Caputi
Marian Michener
Joanna Cadden
Betty Berzon
Elizabeth Nonas
Cynthia Heimel
Rose Glickman
Lory Bedikian
Marcia Cohee
Arlene Konyalian Grenier
Valerie Savor
Shoshana Alexander
Nancy Fierro
Jennifer Loudon
Betty Friedan
Kay Leigh Hagan
Hanan al-Shaykh
Ana Castillo
Michelle Serros
Alison Owings
Nancy Toder
Gina Morantz-Sanchez
Kay Mills
Anna Nieto-Gomez
Chanzo Nettles
Ellen du Bois
Vicki Ruiz
Dell Richards
Jane Hirshfield
Hope Edelman
Jane Mattes
Marian Winsryg
Leah Matson
Carolyn Forché
Karen Sacks
Eve Zaremba
Maxine Myers
Edith Redstone
Barbara Tayler
Mina Meyers
Sharon Robinson
John Stoltzenberg
Morris Kight
Melody Beattie
Frances Rothliebber
Mariah Burton
Rachel Ballon
Fran Peavey

PROGRAM

Diane Lindsay

Jackie Goldberg

Gloria Steinem

bell hooks

Terry Wolverton

Community Hero Award: Maxine Waters

Emily Levine

Sheila James Kuehl

Eloise Klein Healy

Michelle Serros

Robin Tyler

Simone Wallace & Adele Wallace

The Wims

"I came to Los Angeles ten years ago, alone, not knowing anyone, but wanting to connect to the lesbian community. My only hope was the Gay Yellow Pages a friend had packed in my suitcase. Flipping it open to L.A., the Sisterhood Bookstore entry jumped out at me. As fast as I could, I drove down to Westwood and joyously spent my first real afternoon in L.A. soaking in the wonderful feminist woman-centered atmosphere. Way in the back of the store, I found the L.N. and the rest is history. I am so glad now I can give back to the place that gave me so much." -
Thea Iberall,
Long Beach

"Sisterhood Bookstore - means women, communication, great expectations, high energy, information and future knowledge." -
Jessie M. Ivy,
Indianapolis

Sisterhood Bookstore Mission Statement:

- To thrive as an independent bookstore by offering the best service and the deepest, most diverse choice of books, sidelines, and services;
- To promote gender and racial equality and fight homophobia in our selection of books and in all elements of the store



*Sisterhood Bookstore Owners
Simone Wallace & Adele Wallace*

environment, from the images on the walls, to the music we play, to the attitudes of the staff;

- To demonstrate the diversity as well as the commonality of women's experience by providing a wide range of multi-cultural, lesbian, and bi materials, as well as titles on every aspect of women's lives and history;
- To provide a center for the women's community where women and men can gather, exchange information, and use our resources to move the community towards political action.

Sisterhood Bookstore especially thanks

SUSAN ADELMAN

for her generous support.

"... for the rising of the women is the rising of us all"—Bread & Roses

Thank you, Susan, for giving us "bread" and raising our spirits! —Simone and Adele

Sisterhood Bookstore — Still Here

In 1972, Sisterhood founders Adele Wallace, Simone Wallace, and Gahan Kelley were already veterans of the women's liberation movement. Through their work with the L.A./Crenshaw Women's Center, they were no strangers to consciousness-raising groups, demonstrations for equal pay and reproductive rights, or the dozens of meetings that seemed to be required to plan an event or put out a flyer by consensus.

In the Crenshaw Center, Simone recalls, "there was a room where we gathered books and articles sent to us by women across the country. It was self-service; people put their quarters in a metal box and took an article by Valerie Solanas or Kate Millett." This room became more and more crowded as feminist books and publications proliferated and, inspired by the news of the opening of feminist bookstores in other cities, the three friends decided to open a store in Los Angeles. With more political conviction than business acumen, they opened a tiny storefront on Westwood Boulevard just a few blocks south of their current location, in November, 1972.

"We opened the store and within two weeks it seemed like everyone in the women's movement knew we were here and came to browse and shop." They came to read the bulletin board, to check out the latest copies of feminist newspapers, and to snap up copies of Robin Morgan's *Sisterhood is Powerful*, Simone DeBeauvoir's *The Second Sex*, and the Boston Women's Health Collective's *Our Bodies, Our Selves*. While books were a vital part of their vision, the bookstore founders embraced the whole of the emerging women's cultural production, stocking music and posters, buttons and t-shirts and craft items.

In April of 1973, Sisterhood moved to its present location at 1351 Westwood Boulevard. In addition, from 1976-1979, the store maintained a branch in the Women's Building downtown which often hosted gatherings of women writers as well as visual artists. When UCLA launched its Women's Studies Department in the late 1970's, Sisterhood started selling textbooks for classes, an arrangement that continues to this day.

"One day, while wandering through the neighborhood, I stopped in and began to browse. I found a book, quite by accident, which turned out to be one of the most thought provoking works I ever read. It changed the way I think about things. Thank you. I think you have lots of books like that. So, every now and then, I come by and browse through your shelves of other peoples minds." -
Tom Cook,
Los Angeles

"I recently moved to L.A. Sisterhood provided a warm, friendly and intelligent resource for the local women's community. It is far more than a bookstore. Thanks!" -
Anonymous response,
West Los Angeles

"I've never actually been to the store, but from the very first time I ordered books online, everyone was incredibly friendly and helpful. I was so glad to find a bookstore that carried children's books that would actually encourage my daughter to read. I was beginning to think I was the only person on earth that wanted to raise a strong, self-confident daughter. Everyone at your store has been very accommodating and went way out of their way to get me the books I wanted. Thank you so much for all of your help!" -

**Michelle
Faulkenberry,
Santee, California**

Sisterhood founders were not planning to stay in business for a quarter century. Simone says they assumed "that the women's movement would take off and that, after a short time there wouldn't be a need for a separate women's bookstore because 50% of the inventory of every bookstore would consist of books by and about women; 51% of the art sections would reflect books by women artists; and 51% of the literature would be women's literature. It seemed so obvious."

In the twenty-five years that Sisterhood has been in operation, the quality and variety of their stock has expanded enormously. On the shelves one can find women's books on topics as diverse as travel, health, literary criticism, spirituality, science fiction, mystery, sports, poetry, lesbian literature, biography, and books for children. In 1981, the store doubled its space to accommodate the proliferation of new material. "It used to be," Adele recalls, "that we would order any women's title published. Now we have to pick and choose."

Sisterhood is also a vital center for information and a place to experience the richness and diversity of the women's community. The community resource room offers flyers and brochures about the latest classes, dances, political actions and cultural events. Staff frequently receive calls for referral help in handling problems of rape, housing, and domestic violence. For travelers to Los Angeles, Sisterhood is often the first stop for information about this city's activities and resources for women.

Sisterhood Bookstore has also been the host of many readings and book signings. Hundreds of women writers and authors—from the internationally famous to the just-emerging—have been greeted by an enthusiastic public. Alice Walker, Lily Tomlin, Adrienne Rich, Angela Davis, Judy Chicago, and Betty Friedan are just a few who have made appearances. For a complete list, see the inside front and back covers.

More than a few authors who later went on to be published by mainstream houses received their first exposure at Sisterhood Bookstore, where their work was presented in readings, and where their small-press or self-published books were stocked. Such books would never appear on the shelves of chain bookstores, and for many emerging or marginalized writers, women's bookstores like Sisterhood still provide the only forum

for reaching an audience. Women's bookstores have also played a major role in the survival of feminist publishers. And by cultivating a community of book buyers (known as a "market" among corporate publishers), women's bookstores have influenced mainstream publishers to publish new books for, by, and about women.

With the rise of the mega-stores and the chains, which often choose sites in close proximity to long-established, independent booksellers, many women's bookstores have faced serious financial threat, and a number of them have closed. Sisterhood Bookstore—still run by two of its original founders, former sisters-in-law Adele Wallace and Simone Wallace—is one of the few remaining in Southern California.

Unlike the superstores, which are motivated solely by profit, Sisterhood remains committed to fostering the exchange of feminist ideas and culture, to providing an environment that is safe and nurturing, and to facilitating the struggle for equality and justice. Since the early days, the women's community has grown in richness and diversity, and women's cultural projects have increased in ambition, inventiveness, and number. Sisterhood plans to be around to ensure that those creative works—books and CD's, magazines and posters—reach a broad and enthusiastic audience where they, in turn, may stimulate further dialogue and inspire new visions.

"I especially treasure Sisterhood for the availability of lesbian periodicals, which are so essential to lesbian literature, thought and culture. With print runs of only a couple of thousand, and all-volunteer groups editing and publishing them, many journals, newsletters, 'zines, etc., would never reach their audience without Sisterhood. Also, providing a venue for authors to read to and interact with readers is invigorating to the creative process." -

**Tracy Moore,
Los Angeles**

Heartfelt thanks to Sisterhood Bookstore Staff:

Nicole Arkin
Susan Cho
Rose Glenn
Emily Gold
Sherry McCoy
Sharon Sheinker
Christy Swanson

"I have been coming to Sisterhood for twentyfive years. That same year I opened "Of Books and Such," L.A.'s first children's book shop. We lasted thirteen years. So warmest congrats!! In the last five years, I have been a "student" of the goddess and almost every book in my library has come from Sisterhood on this wonderful subject. And I thank you for that. I might add, most of my favorite earrings, necklaces, rings, candle holders etc. came from behind your glass! Did I mention calendars and holiday cards? Long live independent bookstores, long live feminist bookstores. Long live Sisterhood!! Also, your workers are terrific!!" -

**Lindy Michaels,
Santa Monica**

Gloria Steinem

Writer, editor and activist, Gloria Steinem is well-known as a lecturer, feminist organizer and frequent spokeswoman on issues of equality. Besides having authored several best-selling books, her writings have appeared in a large number of anthologies, newspapers and magazines, including *New York* magazine—a weekly she helped to found in 1968, for which she was a political columnist until 1972. Her collection *Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions* was re-released by Henry Holt in 1995. Currently, she is a writer and consulting editor for *Ms. Magazine*, the international feminist bi-monthly that she co-founded in 1972.

As an organizer, Steinem has helped to found the Women's Action Alliance, a national center for information and advocacy; the National Women's Political Caucus; and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. She is president of Voters for Choice, an independent bi-partisan political action committee that supports candidates working for reproductive freedom, and she is the founding president of the Ms. Foundation for Women, which supports grassroots projects that empower women and girls.

Steinem has also co-produced an Emmy-winning television documentary for HBO and a original TV movie for Lifetime. She is presently working, with Rosilyn Heller, on a cable drama about an acquaintance rape case and a mini-series tracing the women of two families, one white and one black, from the suffragist/abolitionist era to the beginning of modern feminism. She has been honored with numerous honorary degrees and awards for writing and journalism, as well as for her activism. In 1995, *Parenting* magazine selected her for its Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in promoting girls' self-esteem.



bell hooks

bell hooks is the author of fifteen books, including *Killing Rage*, *Ain't I a Woman*, and *Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood*. Born in Kentucky and educated at Stanford and UC

Santa Cruz, hooks now lives in New York City, where she is Distinguished Professor of English at City College in New York. hooks' brilliant writings explore feminist issues with courage and insight. As Dr. Maya Angelou notes, "Each offering from bell hooks is a major event, as she has so much to give us." Her latest book, *Wounds of Passion: A Writing Life*, has recently been published by Henry Holt and Company.

The opening lines of the preface of hooks' new memoir speak to the theme of today's event and the relevance of her participation:

"To be born a girl in the fifties and years before was to enter a world where folks still believed that the most important event of a young woman's coming of age was marriage. Those of us who were not fantasizing about a white wedding and the man of our dreams knew we were freaks. We knew better than to speak our longings. From age ten on I dreamed of becoming a writer. Books were my ecstasy and just as I wanted to curl up in my tiny attic room bed and be transported far away, I dreamed of writing words that would offer someone else the same pleasure."

bell hooks has, indeed, offered us all the pleasure of reading her words.



"In the 16 years since moving to L.A. from back East, Sisterhood has been an anchor for me in a very personal way. The sweet scent of incense and ink, the sight of all those books celebrating women, even the creak of the wood floor under the carpet signal safety and nurturing of my lesbian soul. I shall not forget my first entry into Sisterhood while struggling to come out to myself and the world. The "vibe" there is so positive, it always feels like the pressure of society is off me as I browse through your wonderful selection of books, music, videos and community notices. I am a frequent visitor. Thank you for being there." -

**Leslie Rabbitt,
Los Angeles**

"SISTERHOOD BOOKSTORE is one of the great jewels of Westwood: a civilized, welcoming, well-stocked, and, above all, an absolutely necessary place for the many of us who struggle for gender equality. Congratulations to SISTERHOOD for 25 years of fulfilling a vital mission. I am sure it will have many more years of success. And we must all make sure of that."

**- Joan Palevsky,
West Los Angeles**

Maxine Waters



Congresswoman Maxine Waters—the chair of the 39-member Congressional Black Caucus and vice chair of the influential Democratic Steering Committee of the House of Representatives—is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics today. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and poor people. Elected to her fourth term in the House of Representatives, Congresswoman Waters represents California's 35th District, which includes a large part of South Central Los Angeles, as well as Gardena, Hawthorne and Inglewood. As a member of the House Banking Committee, Rep. Waters has won provisions to give women and minority-owned firms preference in acquiring failed financial institutions in under-served areas.

Prior to her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who served 14 years in the California State Assembly, had already attracted national attention for her "no nonsense, no-holds barred" style of politics. She was responsible for some of the boldest legislation California has ever seen, including landmark affirmative action legislation which opened up state procurement and contracting opportunities to women- and minority-owned businesses. She also created the nation's first statewide Child Abuse Prevention Training Program. She has served on the Democratic National Committee since 1980 and has been a key leader in several presidential campaigns. She is a co-founder of the Black Women's Forum, a nonprofit organization of over 1,200 African American women in the Los Angeles area and has been a grassroots leader on several local projects. Long active in the women's movement, Rep. Waters has given encouragement and financial support to women seeking public office.

Sheila James Kuehl



Sheila James Kuehl, now in her second legislative term in the California State Assembly, is the first woman to be named Speaker pro Tempore of that body. A former pioneering civil rights attorney and law professor, Ms. Kuehl represents the 41st Assembly District in Los Angeles County. She chairs the Select Committee on California's Women and serves on the California Coastal Conservancy, the State Commission on the Status of Women, the Domestic Violence Program Advisory, and the Select Committee on Entertainment and the Arts, as well as on the Appropriations, Higher Education, Human Services, Judiciary and Information Technology Committees.

During her first term in the Assembly, Ms. Kuehl authored 23 bills that were signed into law to further protect domestic violence victims and their children, tighten child support enforcement, prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation in the workplace and in education, safeguard the environment, and increase the rights of crime victims. Last year *George* magazine selected her as one of the 20 most fascinating women in politics.

Prior to her election to the Assembly, Ms. Kuehl drafted and fought to get into California law more than 40 pieces of legislation relating to children, families, women, and discrimination. She was a law professor at Loyola, UCLA and USC Law Schools and co-founded and served as managing attorney of the California Women's Law Center. She also served as president of the Women Lawyers' Association of Los Angeles and as a member of the California Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts. In her youth, she was known for her role as Zelda Gilroy in the television series, "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis."

"Sisterhood Bookstore means a tremendous amount to me. Many times, it has kept me going!! Seemingly an oasis; a sanctuary in a typical patriarchal U.S. city. The hours and hours I have spent at Sisterhood could add up! The books of Sisterhood have opened worlds to me! I have grown and become a critically thinking feminist. (In the last 2 years I completed a M.A. in multi-cultural psychology.) I especially appreciate the Wicca Goddess spirituality books which are finally becoming written and available. I hope to write a book soon and have it in Sisterhood!!" -

**Lisa Kohane,
Los Angeles**

"Now that I am writing full-time, I can truly appreciate the wealth of information and wisdom from the many Sisterhood books which I feel make it possible for me to write. When my first book, Women Behind the Camera, was published this year, Sisterhood was the first bookstore I turned to. Whatever I can do to help women writers and the community of women readers, please count me in." -

Alexis Krasilovsky,
Los Angeles

Jackie Goldberg

Jackie Goldberg was first elected to public office in 1983 as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Education, where she served until 1991. She was president of the Board from 1989-91. In 1993, Goldberg was elected to the Los Angeles City Council, where she became its first openly lesbian councilmember. Prior to holding public office, Jackie taught high school in the Compton and Los Angeles Unified School Districts.



Eloise Klein Healy

Eloise Klein Healy is the author of four books of poetry, including *Artemis in Echo Park* (which is also available on CD). She is the founding chair of the new MFA in Creative Writing Program at Antioch University, Los Angeles. And she is an Associate Editor and Poetry Editor of *The Lesbian Review of Books*.



Ladies Choice String Quartet

The Ladies Choice String Quartet—consisting today of **Judy Garf** and **Sharon Cooper** on violin; **Lyn Bertles**, viola; and **Harriet Katz**, cello—has been performing since 1994. Besides playing for hundreds



of weddings and other special occasions, the group has donated its services at many benefits, including for the Feminist Majority, the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Comic Relief/Homeless Health Care, the New Israel Fund, and the Ocean Park Community Center.

Emily Levine

In addition to her numerous appearances as a comedienne, Emily Levine has worked in television as a writer/producer, working on shows such as "Designing Women" and "Love and



War.” She is currently with Norman Lear’s Act II Productions at Paramount where she is writing a pilot for NBC. Cited as one of the new “Queens of Comedy” by *Newsweek* magazine, Emily has performed on a number of television shows, including “Late Night With David Letterman.”

Diane Lindsay

An award-winning musician, singer songwriter and producer, Diane Lindsay’s credits include over 25 albums, plus TV and film work. Her 1996 CD “Give into Love” was a *Billboard Magazine* “Critic’s Choice” and she was recently named to *Billboard Online*’s “The Best of Unsigned Acts.” Diane just completed a run as music director for the critically acclaimed musical “Situation Tragedy.”



Michele Serros

Chicana writer Michele Serros had her first book, *Chicana Falsa and other stories of Death, Identity and Oxnard*, published when she was a UCLA undergraduate. Her poetry and short stories have also been included in several anthologies, and her second book, *How to be a Chicana Role Model*, is slated for publication by Riverhead books. An award-winning commentator on public radio, Michele’s performances have been described as “part poetry reading, part stand-up comedy, part theatrical event.”



The Wims

Originally formed as a 6-woman improvisational group in 1984, the Wims have delighted audiences at a number of venues in Southern California. Although they have not recently performed together as a group, Wim members **Betty Macias, Susan Krebs, Julie Payne, Betty Thomas, Dale Eunson** (absent today), **Elinor Graham**, and **Stephanie Waxman** continue their artistry through film directing, acting, writing, and music.

"This is my fourth year at UCLA and the first time I entered your store was when I was 18. I had never been to a bookstore like Sisterhood and I don't think I ever will find one quite like it. The best thing my professor ever did for me was send me here to buy my books. I was nervous when I first stepped in because I had never been somewhere that had so many proud, strong, female, and lesbian women's voices. It only took a few moments to get over my fear and feel at home. This was the first place where I could feel that no matter who I was, what ethnicity I was or what sexual preferences I had, I was accepted as I was. Until this day I feel like I am home when I visit Sisterhood and I take real pleasure in looking and buying books about me."

Carla D. Carrillo
West Los Angeles

Women's World

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Monday, Jan. 15, 1973 C-1



Herald-Examiner Photos By Bruce Howell

Gayen Phillips, Simone Gold and Adele Wallace are all Mrs.'s as well as Ms.'s. They stop at the end of the day to add up the sales in their Sisterhood Bookshop, enjoy coffee, and map out tomorrow's working day.

'We All Love Books And We Are All UCLA Graduates'

A Book Store Especially For Ms.

By CAMILLA SNYDER
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

It seems inevitable that a movement which spawned its own magazine, 'Ms.', and its own writers: Millet, de Beauvoir, Morgan, Reeves, Greer, Friedan, et al, would eventually also bring forth its own bookshop. It has happened right here in West Los Angeles.

For those who shun the strident, man-hating breed of feminists who seem to abound in the women's liberation movement, the trio of young women who opened the Sisterhood Bookstore come as a welcome relief. All three Ms.'s, Simone Gold, Adele Wallace and Gayen Phillips are also Mrs.'s; what's more, they are happily married. Mrs. Gold and Mrs. Phillips have children and Mrs. Wallace expects her first child any day now.

The Sisterhood partners are an 'in-bred' group; Mrs. Gold and Mrs. Wallace are sisters-in-law while Gayen Phillips is Simone Gold's cousin-in-law. The group have intellectual as well as family ties which is why they chose to open a feminist book shop in place of a feminist dress shop or game shop.

"We all love books, and we are all UCLA graduates," Mrs. Gold whose B.A. is in English explained. "Adele has a degree in elementary education while Gayen has a degree in psychology."

In addition to her training in matters psychological, Mrs. Phillips has a talent for carpentry which is both impressive and appropos in these non-sexist times. She designed, and with her partners' help made, all the book shelves for the back-off-the-street shop at 1915 1/2 Westwood Blvd.

"We wanted to put our capital (each partner contributed \$1000 to the shop) into stock," Gayen explained. "So I went to a lumber yard with my blueprints, selected pine which we stained, and built the shelves. You will notice that each shelf

slants just enough so that the titles are easy to read and the books easy to get at."

The Sisterhood Bookstore opened quietly compared to the razzamatazz of the recent Brentano debut here; coffee and cookies, chips and dips which the girls made themselves were offered to guests, and the opening had a style — sort of homespun intellectual — of its own.

Now that the partners have been in business a full month, they have sorted out their pleasures and their problems. "We are pleased that we have so many men customers," 30-year-old Adele Wallace remarked. "I would estimate that 70 per cent of our clientele are women while 30 per cent are men. And we have an unusual number of children on our books."

Non-sexist children's books, that is volumes which show boys and girls in a variety of roles are a big feature of the shop. As Simone Gold explains:

"In our children's books, the girls do not always stand watch as the boys toboggan down the hill. In so many children's books the girls watch, the boys do. Girls seldom show qualities of courage, ingenuity. By the same token boys seldom show qualities of caring for people or artistic talents like painting. Everything in most children's books is so rigid. Girls are emotional, boys are clever when we know that all people are both."

Adele Wallace noted that a book called, 'Quiet on Account of Dinosaurs,' was a good example of what a non-sexist children's book should be. "It's about a little girl who discovers a dinosaur. She sees his tail outside a cage, pulls on the tail. Now you have to admit that's a courageous thing for a little girl — or for anybody — to do. The little girl in this book becomes an expert on dinosaurs. She goes on and becomes a museum expert on dinosaurs, ends up with a Ph.D. and a curatorial job at a museum."

It seems unlikely that Mmes. Gold, Wallace or Phillips will go on for Ph.D.'s of their own; they are far too fascinated with their business prospects.

"We just can't stay away from the store," Simone Gold said adding that the 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. hours, Monday through Saturday, did make some involved babysitting and housekeeping arrangements necessary.

There are plenty of shop 'chores' to keep the three occupied. Authors come in for advice on who might publish their books, artists stop in about exhibits of their works. Then there are book buying chores.

"Getting books is the big problem," Simone Gold explains. "Publishers in New York are so far away. A lot of times they aren't very cooperative. They refuse to deal in cash. We will send a check and say 'If you want to wait until it clears before sending our books fine.' Now we have a credit rating with the Central Publishing People so things are better. Then too, the Feminist Press and a group called Lollipop Power in Virginia plus Schocken Publishing in New York are fine to deal with."

A poster on the wall of the Sisterhood Bookstore features a diaper ad reprint which reads "The Future President of the United States Deserves a Drier Bottom." Another poster proclaims "There will never be a truly liberated man until there are liberated women." The Sisterhood Bookstore would seem to be dispensing brotherhood and idealistic parenthood along with a nourishing diet of reading material (72 titles, mostly paperback, plus magazines and some non-sexist games) for those in the West Los Angeles area. And the shop owners already speak of opening their second shop. After all, the first month's gross was \$3000. Not bad for a business capitalized at \$3000 in an out of the way location.

Sisterhood

25



Mrs. Robert Klein, with daughter, Justine, looks through a non-sexist children's book. Just after photo was snapped, Justine ran to her father, an acupuncturist who was in another part of the store, for advice, proving male advice still pretty important among tiny feminists.

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"Sisterhood Bookstore has meant that if I needed a source to open my mind, I could find it at your bookstore; if I needed a place to open my eyes, I could come to you. If I wanted to empower myself, I only needed to look to you for guidance, support and understanding. It is because of you that I came to call myself, proudly, feminist and womyn."

**Suzan Najarian-Kojoian,
Los Angeles**

"Like finding an oasis in the desert. I was recently 'out' in L.A. and basically pretty lost. I had never been in a bookstore like it before (this was 1982) and I haven't found another yet with its ambiance and/or selection of books. I was so impressed with the atmosphere, I knew it was a place I wanted to be a part of, as it's been a part of me."

**Rose Glenn,
Los Angeles**

Sisterhood Thanks its Supporters

Although Sisterhood is legally structured as a for-profit business, its operations more closely resemble those of a nonprofit organization. Sisterhood bookstore is a mission-driven enterprise, devoted to providing access to feminist and progressive content in literature and music in a women-friendly environment, without regard to commercial considerations. While mainstream publishers and chain booksellers view women as a "market," at Sisterhood we still relate to women as part of a movement, a movement for social change.

The increased corporate ownership of the publishing industry and the proliferation of chain bookstores has made it nearly impossible for Sisterhood and other independent booksellers to maintain even their extremely modest profit margins. Your donation to the event helps to support Sisterhood's mission and ensure that Sisterhood Bookstore remains "still here." We deeply appreciate your support.

We would like especially to thank the visionary women who pioneered Sisterhood's fund-raiser in 1996: Kit Kollenberg, Sharon Stricker, and Adele Wallace. Their imagination and foresight not only produced a delightful event that brought needed revenue and public attention to the bookstore, but created a model upon which future committees could build.

And our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated committee members who organized "Still Here": Lisa Hartouni, Patricia Hoffman, Linda Levinson, Simone Wallace, Irene Wolt, and consultant Terry Wolverton.

Special thanks to: Susan Adelman, Rich Dawson, Emily Gold, Leena Hannonen-Macnetic Design, Kit Kollenberg, Ellen Palevsky, Joan Palevsky, Sharon Raphael & Mina Meyer, Dean Rowan, Becca Wilson

Event planning committee:

Simone Wallace, Lisa Hartouni, Patricia Hoffman, Linda Levinson, Irene Wolt, Terry Wolverton

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Irene Wolt, Content; Lisa Hartouni, Desktop Production Publisher; Margo Strik, Advertisements c1997

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"You anchored our exciting new movement - to a reader like me, the existence of a bookstore for and about us made our revolution real, visible, permanent. In many ways, you made a home for us - and you have never stopped. The parking problem and now the big chain bookstore have created terrible difficulties for you and us, but thank goodness you're hanging in there. You matter."

**Harriet Perl,
Los Angeles**

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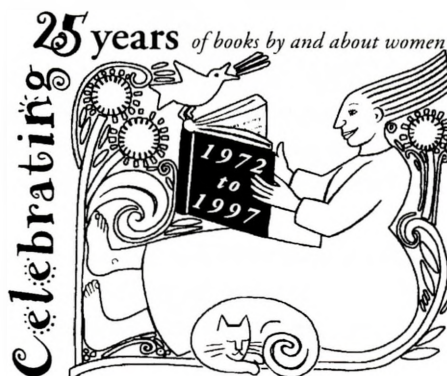
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Feminist Bookstore News

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'still here' Committee Quotes

"Sisterhood has always welcomed me to read from my latest writing project, and has opened its doors to my students, my colleagues, and the writers in the anthologies I've edited. I know whenever I read there that the audience will be receptive and informed; they come because they care about women's words and ideas. Sisterhood has supported me since the beginning." **Terry Wolverton**

"Sisterhood Bookstore has been an ongoing resource for my creativity, and personal and professional growth, and has never failed to offer support to me, as a feminist and psychotherapist, in the ongoing struggle against sexism and patriarchy!" **Linda Levinson**

"It's been a great and dynamic pleasure to work with this committee. I fervently support independent bookstores. The day we do not have independent booksellers is the day that censorship is the norm in society. It is critical that we continue to fight for our independents, the booksellers, writers, and artists." **Lisa Hartouni**

"I wish the whole world operated like Sisterhood --with good feminist politics; small friendly atmosphere; dedication to women and the women's 'community'; and the opportunity to partake of the creativity of thousands of women, through their stories and ideas." **Irene Wolt**

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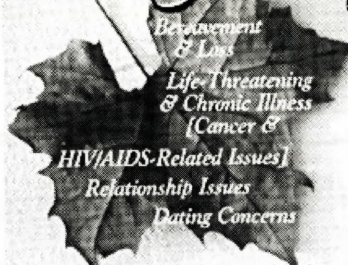
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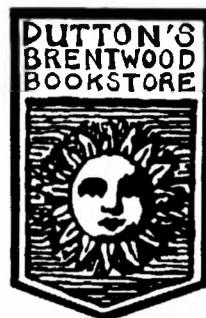
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