



NEWS LETTER

VOL. 6 NO. 3
JANUARY 1998
ISSN 1320 601X

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY INC. PO BOX 271 NEWTOWN NSW 2042

The Women's Library Annual National Short Story Competition

IT'S ON AGAIN!

The Women's Library is proud to present the second year of our National Short Story Competition.

Women from all over Australia are invited to submit their writing to an experienced panel of judges and compete for a fabulous \$1000 first prize as well as publication in *Australian Women's Book Review*. If that doesn't inspire you to finally put pen to paper, fingers to keyboard, then nothing will!

The response to the inaugural competition was fantastic and we at TWL are eager to see what another year's worth of creative endeavour will turn up. Entries close on 31 January 1998 so there's still plenty of time to be a part of it.

The winners will be announced at a special event to be held in Sydney in April 1998 – more details on this will soon be available from the Library.

Once again the theme for the 1998 competition is 'open' with a maximum length of 2500 words. The entry fee is \$10 per story or \$20 for three stories. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form with payment by cheque or credit card. For an entry form and conditions of entry, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Short Story Competition
The Women's Library Inc
PO Box 271
Newtown NSW 2042

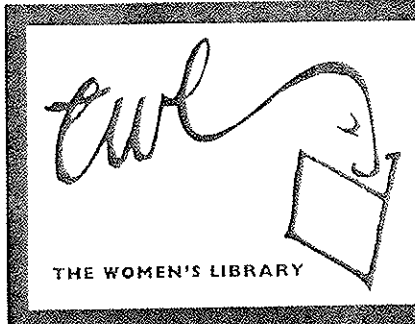


Become a literary sponsor!

TWL would love to hear from individuals and businesses who may be interested in becoming a sponsor of the National Short Story Competition – it's a great opportunity to support women's writing in this country, and all donations are tax deductible to boot.

Please contact either Beth Eldridge at the Library on (02) 9319 0529 or Jane Phillips on (02) 9560 3549 if you would like more information.

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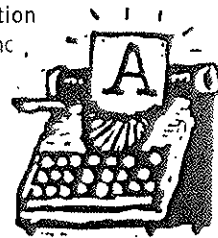
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Welcome, Beth!

As many of you will know, since May this year the Library has been under the steering hand of a brand new coordinator – we'd now (finally!) like to formally introduce Beth Eldridge.

Beth comes to The Women's Library from a varied working background with a whole lot of solid life experience thrown in – perfect for a demanding, unpredictable and necessarily flexible role such as Library Coordinator. While Beth will be giving you the full story below, we'd like to belatedly, but no less sincerely, welcome Beth to TWL and thank her for the amazing contribution she has already made.



BETH AND THE TWL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
'BACK TO THE FUTURE' (AND PHILIP) AMANDA ELLIOT
FRONT TO A. B. M. J. CLARY. (THEY REARER BETH ELDRIDGE)

THE BETH ELDRIDGE STORY

It's hard to know when people ask "So where did you come from?" whether I should launch into my c.v. or give a rundown on my mental health and ideological address. The 'real' story lies somewhere in between...

I suspect throughout my teens I was a closet feminist but for some bizarre reason – relationships, timing, poverty and a twisted desire for Dickensian discipline – I began my working life as a mothercraft nurse. At the time I actually enjoyed the company of children. This transitory, perhaps hormonally-induced state mysteriously dissipated when I gave birth to my son, Tynan.

After several months of social isolation, boredom and self-analysis I realised that what I'd really enjoyed about my job was the fact that the children actually belonged to someone else. I also missed the company of a community of women and decided that I'd better go back to work before my sanity and self-esteem dissolved in a bucket of Nappysen.

One big hurdle was the lack of childcare for young babies, affordable or otherwise. I must have called every centre in Sydney looking for childcare and work and found nothing.

Then through a stroke of serendipitous fortune I found the number for the Macquarie University Parents' Co-operative. I rang them. They were a small group of about fifteen parents who took turns minding each other's kids so they could go to classes. One small problem was that you had to be a student at the uni to use it. I enrolled immediately in a BA and spent five glorious years as a member of the co-op.

Although ultimately I majored in drama and literature, my first years were a curious mix of English, palaeontology and biology, structured deliberately to allow me close proximity to the co-op so I could easily breastfeed my daughter Verity, who was only three weeks old when I started my second year.

While a member of the co-op I spent five years coordinating the rosters which changed every semester – skills I never realised I'd be calling on again! Over the five years I did two degrees, the second being a Masters in Theatre Studies.

I had wanted to keep studying, perhaps try for a PhD, but

as a sole parent my ever increasing HECS debt demanded that I take up employment. I spent four years working for Lady Gowrie Information and Referral as a project officer with JET (Jobs Education and Training) helping other sole parents find childcare while they went back to work or study.

The irony of being economically forced to work at a job that encouraged other women in my position to climb the ladder only to headbutt the glass ceiling did not escape me. After four years and despite numerous attempts to convince/demand/seduce politicians and department heads at every conference I attended to scrap the HECS system (especially in regard to people on Social Security pensions), my resentment and frustration grew, as did my HECS debt, and I decided to chuck it all in.

At the time I was working on a radio play for the ABC, freelance writing and doing database programming. Strangely enough all these activities and a series of bizarre events led to me taking up a four-month traineeship with ABC Radio, working as a writer, researcher and producer for three programs – 'Arts Today', 'Radio Eye' and 'ClickOn!'. This was a fantastic experience because I felt that at last things were coming full circle and I was getting to work in the areas that I'd spent all those years studying.

Then the new government brought the budget down. The ABC lost around ten per cent of its funding and everybody waited to see where the axe would fall. There was no chance of getting any ongoing work, freelance budgets were restricted, radio drama put projects on hold.

When this position as coordinator came up at The Women's Library it was like manna from heaven. For the longest time I'd prayed to the gods to work in a place where I could be surrounded by books and gorgeous, intelligent and creative women. Needless to say my faith has been restored! I guess you could say I'm at last in a state of vocational ecstasy.'

BETH ELDRIDGE, TWL COORDINATOR

WELCOME

TWL WELCOMES OUR NEW MEMBERS



Barbara Williams
Catherine Brennan
Cherrie McDonald
Connie Ho
Dana Cohen
Danielle Finlay
Deborah Helmrich
Donata Fiori
Ellie Bray
Gillian Anderson
Gretha Golds

Helen Pavlin
J Peacock
Jacqueline Gardiner
Janita Suter
Joy Ross
Julia Ryan
Katrina Wills
Mardhiah Osman
Margot Oliver
Margot Patterson
Marisha Crooks
Maura Outterside
Michelle Levick
Monica Long



Rebecca Woolf
Ros Wall
Sara Anderson
Sarah Tighe-Ford
Shobhna Kumar
Sonya Reid
Stephanie Brown
Susan Dietrich
Susan McGukin
Tara Morelos
Yvonne Thomas



THANK YOU

>>> Continued from Page 2

Rebecca Wapels, Rita Haddad, Ros Wall, Rose Bollen, Rosemary Louise Beaton, Ruth Armstrong, Sandi Jeffs, Sarah Groenewegen, Sarah Goffmann, Sarah Wright, Stacy Carter, Stephanie Brown, Stephanie Sparke, Susan McGuckin, Tamaris Cameron, Tatiana Gibson, Terri Zerafa, Tricia Dearborn, Uma Kali Shakti, Vida Carnegie, Wendy Holz

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

THANKS TO Catharine Clements, Emily Clark, Jane Phillips, Katalin Virag, Kylie Lowson, Margy Burn, Pearl McNeill, Shelly Pearce, Simone Ford, Vee Carnegie, Cathy Gallagher

DESIGN – Sharon Hancock

MAILOUT

COORDINATORS – Donna Wilcox, Anne Jones

THANKS TO Beth Eldridge, Simone Ford

WITH SPECIAL THANKS

DESIGN + DTP OF NEWSLETTER – Ingrid Urh

ACCOUNTANT – Lee Payne

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Uma Kali Shakti, Fiona Porteous, Rachel Moerman

VOLUNTEER VIDEO SOCIALS – Terri Zerafa

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS – Vee Carnegie

PLANT MAINTENANCE – Glennifer Roberts

DONATION COLLECTION – Fiona Millhouse

COMPUTER SUPPORT – Donna Wilcox, Anne Jones, Fiona Porteous, Ilana Kaplan

BOOK COLLECTION + REFERRALS – The Feminist Bookshop

NEW BOOKS DONATION – The Bookshop, Newtown

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION – Andrea Griffin, Terri Zerafa

LIBRARY PROCESSES SUBCOMMITTEE – Rose Bollen, Cath

Kevin, Fiona Porteous, Rachel Moerman

PROCESSING OVERDUES – Marny Kilby

SORTING BOOKS IN STORAGE – Catharine Clements

THE INBOX

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

- *ACER Newsletter* – Australian Council for Educational Research
- *ANewsBA* – Association of Non-English Speaking Background Women of Australia
- *Australian Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*
- *Carnivale* guide
- *Charities Bulletin*
- *Earthwise Women*
- *Family Matters* – Australian Institute of Family Studies
- *Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)*
- *Go Girl!* – Sydney Women's Festival
- *Grapevine*
- *Heartcentre Newsletter*
- *Homophobia – What are you scared of?*
- *Hooter*
- *HQ*
- *Inner Voice*
- *International Peace Update*
- *Jessie Street National Women's Library Newsletter*
- *Knunch* (best of Streetwise)
- *Lesbiana*
- *Lesbian and Gay Solidarity Newsletter*
- *Lesbians on the Loose*
- *Lezbiz*
- *Lifesaver* – Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project
- *Lip*
- *MA News* – journal of the Maternity Alliance
- *Media Centre News* – National Women's Media Centre
- *Mountain Lesbian News*
- *Museletter*
- *National Library of Australia News*
- *Network* – Rural Women's Network
- *News* – State Library of NSW
- *Newsrite* – NSW Writers' Centre
- *Newtown Times*
- *Public Library News*
- *Queensland Pride*
- *Queensland Woman*
- *Refractory Girl*
- *Screaming Hyena*
- *Sydney Star Observer*
- *Sydney University Women's Studies Centre Newsletter*
- *Sydney Women's Liberation Newsletter*
- *Walking Together* – Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Warmup
- *WEA Course Handbook*
- *WEL Informed*
- *WISN Newsletter* – Women Incest Survivors Network
- *Women Aloud* – Armidale District Women's Centre
- *Women and Paid Work Project Report*
- *Women and Work*
- *Women in Focus*

RESOURCES RECEIVED

DONATED BY AUTHORS, CONTRIBUTORS & EDITORS

- *Cemetery Murders* – Jean Marey
- *No Daughter of the South* – Cynthia Webb
- *Orlando's Sleep* – Jennifer Spry
- *Tornid Zone* – Rebecca Beguin
- *The Activist's Daughter* – Ellyn Bache
- *Car Maintenance, Explosives and Love* – Edited by Susan Hawthorne, Cathie Dunsford, Susan Sayer
- *Pearls and Bullets* – Lizz Murphy
- *River's Edge* – Cath Phillips

Book Sale

A range of books will be available for purchase from the Library on Saturdays and Sundays only – please ask staff if you'd like to have a look.

The Women's Library Aims

To house a comprehensive range of feminist and lesbian novels, texts, journals and magazines, and in particular to house all Australian lesbian books and magazines

To house required reading for tertiary courses in Sydney that focus on women's issues

To house the works of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

To house a collection relevant to women of non-English speaking backgrounds

To provide a comfortable and accessible space for borrowing, reading and relaxing

To act as a local women's resource centre

To provide a children's room with a range of great children's books

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY - 11AM TO 8PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - 11AM TO 5PM
Closed on Mondays

73 GARDEN ST, ALEXANDRIA
PHONE (02) 9319 0529
EMAIL twl@rainbow.net.au

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•••••

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Saturday 10.30am to 4.00pm • Closed Sunday

•••••

Issues for women in the '90s
Resource and information centre
10% student discount

ESSENTIAL EVENTS

JANUARY

29 Thursday

- TWL Annual General Meeting
73 Garden Street, Alexandria
6.30pm

31 Saturday

- TWL National Short Story Competition
Closing date for entries

FEBRUARY

Date to be announced

- TWL moves to new premises
Contact the Library for dates and details

MARCH

8 Sunday

- Go Girl! Sydney Women's Festival
The Domain, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney
Phone Thea Butler 02 9664 1417

APRIL

3 Friday

- TWL National Short Story Competition
Awards night

CONTRIBUTIONS

TWL Newsletter is looking for contributions. Regular areas of contribution include interviews, book reviews and coming events. If you are interested in contributing, please send submissions to the Editorial Committee, care of the Library.

TRAVEL Vacations

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TELEPHONE (02) 9555 7477

On the Move Update!

On the move in February 1998 is The Women's Library's next adventure.

South Sydney City Council is currently renovating TWL's new home, a building just behind Newtown Library, and we're expected to be settled in by late February 1998. Keep in contact with the Library for details.

Once again, South Sydney City Council is continuing to support the Library by providing removalists, trucks and people to reassemble the shelves, but we'll still need plenty of help pulling down and putting the Library back together.

WE NEED...

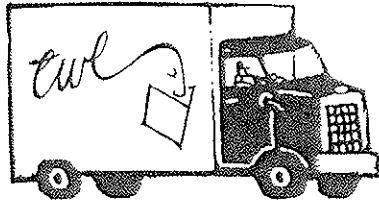
- Book packers, stackers and labellers
- People to help disassemble shelves
- Anyone handy with power tools, drills or hammers
- People to set the new library up i.e. book unpackers
- Anyone who can spare a few hours to help

CONTACT

Call Beth Eldridge, Coordinator of TWL, on 9319 0529 or leave a message if you're able to help.

WE'RE STILL OPEN

Until February 1998 the Library will be open as usual at 73 Garden Street, Alexandria. Our opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 11.00am to 8.00pm and Saturday to Sunday 11.00am to 5.00pm.

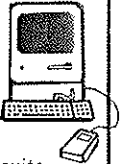


WISHLIST

Here is your chance to help The Women's Library move. We have a new venue, we now need to put more things in it and get people to help out with the January 1998 move. Maybe you can donate one of the following, or you may know of a company who would be interested in sparing a particular item.

WE WOULD LIKE...

- Fax machine
- Shelving
- Video recorder
- Small stereo system
- Ergonomic chair
- Answering machine
- Microwave oven
- Good quality lounge suite
- Macintosh computer
- IBM compatible computer (minimum 486 SX)
- Laser printers in good working condition



CALL US ON 9319 0529 IF YOU CAN HELP!

A REQUEST FOR COLLABORATORS

Student is seeking to collaborate with lesbian- and bisexual-identified women from non-English speaking backgrounds on a thesis exploring the intersections of women's sexual and ethnic identities.

I am keen to hear about your experiences of negotiating multiple identities as well as your thoughts on displacement and 'marginalisation'. Confidentiality is assured.

Please call Katalin Virag on 02 9750 0486 (H) or write to me at 124 Lakemba Street, Lakemba NSW 2195.

BLACK AND MIGRANT WOMEN WRITERS

Want to get together with others to share, support, feedback, laugh and agonise over our efforts to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard? Whether you're a beginner or an experienced writer, you're welcome to join us.

We meet (usually over some food) at each other's homes, fortnightly Saturday afternoons, 4pm to 6pm. For more information contact Uma on 02 9564 3227.

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WHAT'S IT LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AT TWL?

Volunteers at The Women's Library provide over 150 hours of labour per week and are the backbone of TWL's operations.

As you all know, TWL is a volunteer-run community organisation with over 100 gals volunteering their ideas, time and muscle-power to keep TWL in operation.

Apart from the essential tasks of staffing and administering the Library, volunteers organise bookstalls at fair days, sort donations, write articles for and produce the newsletter, sell chocolates, prepare grant applications to funding bodies, organise the TWL National Short Story Competition – the list goes on. From all this, an active social life often results.

Many volunteers staff the Library for four hours a week each, assisting users to access the collection, processing books and performing many other essential functions – volunteers are what keeps the Library alive!

We spoke to a volunteer, Terri Zerafa, about her experiences of volunteering at the Library. > > >

"...it's great, it's a really welcoming space, I enjoy being here...everybody's friendly, everybody's welcoming..."

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INTERVIEW



TERRI ZERAFKA - TWL VOLUNTEER

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT TWL?

TERRI > Well, I recall picking up a newsletter at The Feminist Bookshop in 1994 and read about TWL and wanted to get involved in it then, but was involved in my studies of Fine Arts. I finished study last year and found myself with a bit more time, so I joined up this year, January 1997.

WHY DID YOU START VOLUNTEERING?

TERRI > I'd heard about it, I love books, I love to read and I just wanted to be involved in an organisation and a community of women to work together to formulate a social and reading community.

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH AT TWL?

TERRI > I'm involved in staffing the Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays, two days a week, and now I deal with membership applications. I've also helped out with fund-raising activities at various information and book stalls. I did one at the Leura Community Centre and talked to people about the Library. I gave out leaflets and had a great day meeting other women's groups. I even got a foot massage and saw some belly dancing and I thought if this is what volunteering's all about, count me in!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TWL?

I think it's great, it's a really welcoming space, I enjoy being here...everybody's friendly, everybody's welcoming. I've even started some social video nights on Fridays. There's a poster at the Library about what's coming up next and there's a list for people to put their names down. We start off with a short or a documentary and then have a feature. We've had a Murder Most Horrid episode called 'Overkill' with Dawn French, the film When Night is Falling, and some Xena episodes. We bring our own food and drinks and it's a lot of fun!

REVIEWS

Here is a sample of the kind of books you can find in *The Women's Library*. All of the following titles have been donated by the publishers or the author. Thank you to the following publishers, authors and reviewers for your support.

GROWING UP ITALIAN IN AUSTRALIA

EDITED BY BARBARA WALSH

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, SYDNEY 1993

This collection of autobiographical accounts strikes most as an important representation of the diversity of Italian migrant women's experience.

The reader quickly abandons any expectation of uniform retrospectives of childhood. While experiences of homes that were patriarchal stomping grounds have frequent representations, so too do those that feature strong, positive and sustained family ties.

The contributors recount common experiences of the exclusion, camaraderie, cruelty and warmth of immediate and extended families, school and the street. But individual slants on the experience and interpretations offer different insights into the migrant experience and women's subjectivity.

In the earlier sister collection of accounts by first generation Italian women, *Forza e Coraggio*, there is a pervasive sense of struggle and suffering. In *Growing Up Italian in Australia* this gives way to greater feelings of freedom and hope in the lives of those who have experienced what has been made available by their mothers' works and sacrifices.

While the standard of the writing on the whole is fairly high, this is a secondary issue to the project of collecting these pieces. In a field where relatively little research has been done this is an invaluable resource.

CATHERINE KEVIN

THE ACTIVIST'S DAUGHTER

ELLYN BACHE

SPINSTERS INK, MINNESOTA 1997

This book tells the story of Beryl Rosinsky, a seventeen-year-old Jewish girl living during the height of the American Civil Rights Movement in 1963, a time of profound political and social discontent.

Beryl's mother is an unconventional civil rights activist whose activism is a source of embarrassment for Beryl, seeing her mother's conduct as undignified.

As a result Beryl feels a need to be anonymous and 'normal'. "That's her, the Activist's daughter" – it was a seminal moment. I knew two things. I wanted to be anonymous. I wanted revenge against Mother.

As an act of rebellion she enrolls at the University of North Carolina, deep in the South. It is here that Beryl struggles to blend in and come to terms with her own 'difference'. It is also here that she sees first hand the very thing that her mother is fighting against – discrimination on the basis of race and colour – as she unwittingly becomes involved with people her mother would approve of – activists.

1963 was the year that the University of North Carolina admitted Karen Parker, the first African-American woman on campus, whose journals and articles helped Bache to write this book. *The Activist's Daughter* captures the essence of historical moments – such as a character named Emily Moses based on Karen Parker's own story and the assassination of President Kennedy – without overwhelming the story of Beryl's coming-of-age.

The Activist's Daughter is a moving and endearing tale which engages the reader with Beryl's story while touching on social and political issues as she encounters racism, sexism and hypocrisy.

LOUELLA VILLADIEGO

FREEDOM AND ENTRAPMENT: WOMEN THINKING THEOLOGY

EDITED BY MARYANNE CONFOY, DOROTHY A LEE

AND JOAN NOWOTNY

DOVE PUBLISHING, 1995

For many women from a Christian background, a growing feminist consciousness can bring an uneasy awareness of the inequality and misogyny that can exist within varied Christian tradition.

Some leave the Church, turning to other spiritual paths or disavowing religion entirely. Others choose to remain, trying to change the system from within. This collection of essays is written by just such women. The contributors present a range of topics and speak from a variety of perspectives: Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant and Aboriginal.

Of particular interest to me were Anne Pattel-Grey's essay, 'Not yet Tiddas', and Muriel Power's 'The Christian Origins of Feminism', both of which speak of the history of feminism in Australia which has, to some extent, its origins in religious movements.

While both articles speak of the history of the Australian women's movement, Pattel-Grey gives a sobering account of Aboriginal women's oppression at the hands of both white men and women, arguing that Australian feminist theology in particular, and Australian feminism in general, have historically been both racist and classist, and still are to a large extent.

The collection is on the whole a very interesting and thought-provoking read, both for readers within the Christian church and those with a wider interest in both theology and feminist theory.

RACHEL MOERMAN

THE DESCENT OF WOMEN

ELAINE MORGAN

STEIN AND DAY, NEW YORK 1972

This author examines the message of Genesis, the legend of the 'jungle heritage' and the evolution of man as a hunting carnivore, and reaches some startling conclusions – and all this with a rare turn of wit!

Now, despite the fact that evolutionary thinking has been making great strides, and that archaeologists, ethnologists, palaeontologists, geologists, chemists, biologists and physicists are closing in from all points of the

compass on the central area of the mystery of modern human beings, there is still the general consensus that 'smack in the centre remains the Tarzanlike figure of the prehumanid male who came down from the trees, saw a grassland teeming with game, picked up a weapon, and became a *Mighty Hunter*'.

Morgan feels that this is a load of old cobblers, and proceeds to offer some fascinating and very credible theories of what really happened when our history began some twenty million years ago.

Morgan answers many intriguing questions such as, why, if we began as quadrupeds, did we stand upright? What was the advantage? Certainly the theories Morgan proposes are backed up with a considerable amount of research. She presents a fulsome bibliography. A very thought-provoking book.

BETTE DUNCAN

HAVING IT ALL

MAEVE HARAN
SIGNET, LONDON 1991

It is said that when a young, glamorous woman has a high-powered job, no money worries, a handsome and loving husband and two adorable children (with a nanny to take care of their every want), that she 'has it all' – but does she? And at what price?

Haran herself has been a successful TV producer and mother of two small children. In her novel *Having It All* she explores with rare insight the difficulty of balancing a fast-paced existence with the joys and pitfalls of family life.

Haran's heroine, Liz, believes that she can have it all when she accepts, at her 'loving' husband's instigation mind you, the job of program controller at Metro Television. But is she the 'token woman' or is she really being given the authority to present quality programming?

And how do her best friends feel about Liz's glittering success? Well, Ginny, the Happy Homebody – the one who bakes her own cookies and never runs out of ice cubes and whose two equally adorable children are totally her own responsibility – actually envies Liz.

But Ginny's is not a destructive envy unlike their mutual friend Britt. Beautiful and blonde Britt of the long, long legs likes married men – just guess what she does? So Liz's search for a better way of living and the surprising choices she makes, have a life changing effect.

This is a witty and perceptive read. I thoroughly enjoyed this one and recommend it to all those who are having second thoughts about their life.

CECILE MASTERS

Although we have a steady trickle of new books sent to us for review, we would like to include reviews of some older favourites as well, not only because this informs and enthuses a new generation of readers but also because the bulk of our holding are the generous donations of those goodies.

SISTER GIN

JUNE ARNOLD
THE FEMINIST PRESS, NEW YORK 1975

This has got to be one of my all-time favourite lesbian novels. I read it when I was coming-out in my thirties and this gem was one of the tools that gave me much hope.

I mean, love between menopausal women? 'Wow! There's hope for me yet', I remember thinking at the time. What's more, these women are built on the same voluptuous cosy lines as myself.

The story is well written, honest and validating. Anything that gives us hope is a definite 'Do-Not-Miss' and gets five stars from me!

THE BEST LOOKING WOMEN IN BONDI JUNCTION

SHARON O'KEEFE, ILLUSTRATED BY KAZ COOKE
PENGUIN, MELBOURNE 1989

In keeping with my theme of 'older' women, here is the diary covering a year in the life of fictitious Nancy Bedding. Once again it's a funny – in fact, utterly hilarious – report of the daily lives of a what feels like a group of my women friends and I.

But in this instance dealing with the minutiae of the reality of the lives of feisty, annoying, brave, crabby women twenty to thirty years my senior. These are my Kuia/women elders who are still fighting fit, learning, sharing and hanging out with their mates. It's a frothy, fun book very much complimented by our Kaz's clever cartoons.

WITH WINGS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LITERATURE BY WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

EDITED BY MARSHA SAXTON AND FLORENCE HOWE
VIRAGO, LONDON 1987

I laughed, I cried, I gasped, I died (of shame) but ultimately I felt much joy, enlightenment, empathy and empowerment from having the privilege to share in the stories of these women, both poetry and prose.

Some pieces – such as by Alice Walker, which I already knew and treasured – still bring tears, while others gave me invaluable insights.

The book becomes a map and guide for survival and courage, so either you will be comforted and validated by

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these women or will have the opportunity to learn some valuable lessons. For me, I know that their words will not only remind me to enjoy life as I experience it right now, but also continue to echo and reverberate into the future.

TRUTH TALES: CONTEMPORARY STORIES BY WOMEN WRITERS OF INDIA

EDITED BY KALI FOR WOMEN

THE FEMINIST PRESS, NEW YORK 1986

Being of South-Asian descent I was extremely excited when this book was published. In spite of the more than four generations removed from India, I could still identify with the cultures as depicted in the pages of this book.

For those who want to know how patriarchy and sexism as well as various other forms of oppression operate in different cultures and countries, these stories are illuminating and informative. We can gain much from learning how our sistahs elsewhere survive and triumph in spite of circumstances.

Certainly another book to treasure for its abilities to allow us the opportunities to expand our knowledge and understanding hopefully leading to a truer sense of sistahood and solidarity.

LIONHEART GAL: LIFE STORIES OF JAMAICAN WOMEN

SISTREN

THE WOMEN'S PRESS, LONDON 1986

For me these women are my true sistahs/sistren. They are also Black 'working-class' women, survivors with the wonderful sense of humour, joy, and ability to work hard for what they want.

The main 'problem' for readers is, I suspect, going to be the 'patois' or colloquial language much of this book is written in. Unless we can 'interpret/translate' the style of the words used, we may lose or even fail to grasp what the stories are about.

Mind you, having for years had to read European books which often were smattered with French and German etc. and no translations included - the assumption being that all readers were or should be familiar with these colonising

languages - I am much more willing to plough through this book. It's worth it, to get to the absolute gems.

Also, after I got used to the rhythm and cadence of the words and style, I found I could 'hear' the women storytelling in my mind in the oral tradition.

We all live with a multitude of oppressions, some of us having more than others, and these women certainly are often at the worst receiving end. But believe me, they're 'in yer face', 'telling it like it is', 'not pulling their punches'. Because of the very specificity of the stories, they become, in essence, universal.

Violence, stupidity, injustice, poverty are tempered by laughter, discovery, ingenuity and sheer bloody persistence. I can't help being proud and overjoyed by these, my Sistren!

UMA KALI SHAKTI

TWLAGM

29 JANUARY 1998 • 6.30PM


73 GARDEN STREET, ALEXANDRIA

AGENDA

1. Report by the Convenor of management committee activities for the past year
2. Financial report by the Treasurer
3. Appointment of Returning Officer
4. Election of management committee members
5. Any other business

CAN I HAVE A SAY?

If you have an issue that you wish to raise at The Women's Library AGM, you may do so under Item 5 of the agenda. If you wish to do this please provide detail in writing, outlining your concerns. Address your letter to Michelle Pearce, Convenor of The Women's Library, PO Box 271, Newtown 2042.

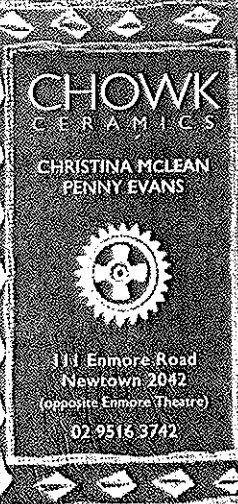


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The Editorial Committee,
c/- The Women's Library
PO BOX 271, NEWTOWN 2042
EMAIL twl@rainbow.net.au

TWLKNOWHOW

HOW THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY WORKS

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You must become a member of The Women's Library (TWL) to be eligible to borrow books. Membership fees per year:

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 - \$30 unfunded institutions and waged individuals
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- TWL accepts Visa, Bankcard, and Mastercard.

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- Two weeks for all books (maximum six books)
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- Periodicals and reference material may be read in the Library, and photocopying is available for Library users

LONG DISTANCE BORROWING

This service is available to members. Please contact TWL for more information.

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Loans may be renewed in person or by phone, unless they are on reserve.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

BECOME A MEMBER

Please fill out the form below. At this stage TWL is unfunded and membership fees keep the Library alive. As a member you are entitled to borrow books from the Library, receive TWL's newsletter four times a year, and eligible to vote at our AGM.

BUY A BOOK TO JOIN THE LIBRARY

- You can buy a book to donate to TWL in lieu of membership fees from a list of titles lodged with The Feminist Bookshop (address below). Simply bring your book, membership form and The Feminist Bookshop receipt to TWL during opening hours and we will process your membership on the spot.*

SPONSOR A COORDINATOR SCHEME

- You can become a sponsor of the Library by donating \$10 or more on a monthly basis. This amount is tax deductible.
- Sponsors of the Library are automatically members and the money you donate goes solely toward employing a full-time Library Coordinator which will enable the Library to be a self-sufficient and effective community based service.
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- If you would like to know more or become a sponsor, please contact the Library.

BOOK DONATIONS

- If you would like to donate books for the Library's collection, drop off points are:
 - The Women's Library 73 Garden Street, Alexandria
 - The Feminist Bookshop Shop 9, Orange Grove Plaza, Balmain Road, Lilyfield
- Please note that TWL has a no-strings-attached donations policy. TWL reserves the right to decide whether a donated item will be integrated into the collection, discarded, exchanged or sold.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

- To make it more inviting for you to donate money to TWL, your donations are tax deductible. You can donate a collection of new books (which must be valued by an approved valuer) or any item that has been purchased by you within the last twelve months, and claim the value of that donation as a tax deduction.

BEQUESTS

- Maybe you would like to consider making provisions for leaving your personal library and/or a donation to TWL in your will. Please contact the Library if you need details on how to do this.

*Books donated under this scheme need to be valued at a minimum of \$25.00 for waged membership, and \$15.00 for unwaged membership.

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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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