



NEWSLETTER

No.8 February 2011

Celebrating 35 years of archiving and activism

It has been 35 years since the Feminist Library was founded as a humble shelf of books seeking to preserve the (often ephemeral) literature of the women's liberation movement.

We're having a massive birthday benefit to celebrate this landmark anniversary on 19th February at the Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road, London E5 0PU at 7pm.

It will be a fun and eclectic evening with entertainment from Trash Kit, Martha & Eve, Viv Albertine, Women Sing East, Julie McNamara, Lorraine Jordan, DJ, as well as a dramatised excerpt from *A Fine Undertaking: A Lesbian Relationship Farce* by Berta Friestadt by some friends of Berta.

We still need help on the night – please check our website for details of how you can help or email volunteer@feministlibrary.co.uk for more information.

The venue is fully accessible. There will be a licensed bar, with cakes too.

Friendly feminist people of all ages and genders welcome.

Tickets are available on the night and in advance from our website, and can be reserved by calling 020 7261 0879. Tickets will be £5 /£10/£15 depending on income.

For more information visit www.feministlibrary.co.uk or check us out on facebook.

Feminist Library stall at ladyfest@10



2010 saw lots of new women getting involved in the library, bringing much needed energy, ideas and time. The Feminist Library stall and volunteers were at Feminism in London, Reclaim the Night and Ladyfest@10, we had open days and a bring and buy sale, with more and more people and groups visiting and using the library.

Women and the Kettle

On 9 December 2010 MPs controversially voted to increase university fees to an unacceptable £9,000. Around the country people took to the streets to protest. In London on that very cold day several thousand people were detained for hours by the police in Parliament Square, Trafalgar Square and Westminster Bridge Road, just yards from the library. This process of detainment is called Kettling and is increasingly being used by police against demonstrators. Here are some reflections from that day by Feminist Library volunteers and activists.

Hot chocolate and pot noodles...

Substantial quantities of these items were consumed at the Feminist Library (in the kitchen, of course!) when we collaborated with

Woodcraft Folk to provide a safe space for young people and their friends recovering from the demo on 9th December. We were glad to help, as we have been shocked by the disproportionate violence used by the police against defenceless young people, especially charging them with police horses. Feminist Library supporters include students, women who work in universities and colleges, and parents, while all of us, and the library itself, are at great risk because of the government cuts.

To find out more about how Woodcraft Folk is supporting the Kettled Generation, please see <http://www.woodcraft.org.uk/young-people-protest-watch>

Women and the Kettle continues p2

Opening Hours

The Feminist Library is now open more often and for longer.

Our opening hours for January, February and March are:

- Tuesday 11am - 4pm
- Wednesday 5:30pm – 9:30pm
- Friday 10:30am – 6pm
- Saturdays – we are open the first and last Saturdays of the month from 1:30pm – 5:30pm.

The full timetable for opening can be found on our website at www.feministlibrary.co.uk

To book a visit to the library outside of opening times:

Email

admin@feministlibrary.co.uk

or ring 020 7261 0879

Being a woman in a kettle

by Rosa Martyn, (mylittlestitches.wordpress.com).

Firstly, let's get the obvious gender difference out the way - over the course of 9 hours (which was the time I was detained) one is probably going to want to urinate. Doing this discretely 'out in the open' is a much easier job for men and they can aim it at a political target: a door of HM Revenue & Customs was a popular destination. Another 'toilet' was the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and three fences had been arranged into a make-shift 'hut' with 'PISS HERE' spray painted onto the side.

None of these were female friendly. The hut was perhaps the most dignified, but unless you were wearing waterproof shoes, it was hardly an option. Boggy doesn't quite describe it. Instead, I chose not to drink any water while detained. At no point did I know how long that would be, so even a sip seemed like to big a risk. My thirst became difficult to manage - but still preferable to finding a place to urinate. I am now the proud owner of a 'she-wee' (a thoughtful Christmas present) so I will never be in this situation again.

But I also wanted to talk about the fear which we felt for the police - probably shared between the sexes. We had police on horseback charging at us, police with shields and helmets and batons running at us. Hands held up in surrender were hit with batons, we could see demonstrators with bloodied heads being carried off. We were also being lied to - we were told we'd experience freedom shortly, and then were lead onto another kettle on Westminster Bridge for a further three hours. For the entire time we were being detained, we were being taught to fear the police.

These protests are attended by a lot of young people - the youngest I met that day were sixteen, but even younger must have been there too. For many, this was their first experience of a protest. They have been taught, through police brutality, that protesting leads to bruises, to vandalism, that it descends into what seems very much like chaos. They have also been taught to hate, distrust and fear police. An entire generation has now been bred to not trust the very people that have been appointed and employed to protect us.

There's a reason for their disgusting tactics: It's to stop us wanting to protest, to put us off making our voices heard. It is our right, and it is often the only thing left to do. I certainly will not stop. In the words of Malvina Reynolds, **"It isn't nice to block the doorway, it isn't nice to go to jail, there are nicer ways to do it, but the nice ways always fail. It isn't nice, it isn't nice, you told us once, you told us twice, but if that is Freedom's price, we don't mind."**

Rosa will be presenting a session on embroidery at a forthcoming Upstairs at the Feminist Library event. See our website for further details.

Complicity and the Kettle

by Sophie Jones.

Standing at the centre of the Parliament Square kettle, I realised the crowd had split in half. To my right was a mass of people watching the attempt to break into the Treasury. To my left was a static queue of protesters. My eyes followed the fatigued snake of demonstrators to its grim origin: several rows of police officers with truncheons and shields doing nothing to let the docile queue-identified persons out of the freezing square. The ill-fated queue eventually dispersed. But I was reminded of it later as I attempted to avoid a panic attack at another of the police's faux-exits. This wasn't a queue, but a crush. The time was 9pm. We had been incarcerated in the square since 3.30pm. We had to believe this exit was for real. Even if I had received some premonition that the police were planning to filter us on to Westminster Bridge and detain us there for a further two hours, there was no escape route - we were too tightly packed. I tried to stay calm.

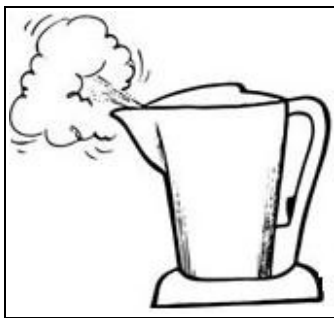
"We'll be back!" someone shouted.

"Don't say that - they won't let us go!" somebody else screamed angrily.

Here it was again - the ostensible split between the radical hardcore and the pragmatic moderates. References to a 'hardcore of anarchists' have been used in the mainstream media to belittle the size and passion of the larger movement. When this is no longer possible, the entire demonstration is branded a mob or riot. If a division exists, between the guilty and the not-guilty, between those who deserve to be kettled and those who do not, why don't the police let people they know to be innocent leave the kettle? Why do the police turn a blind eye to situations such as the attack on the Treasury until it has escalated to a degree that might appear to justify state violence more than a peaceful, lawful demonstration? Indeed, why does kettling happen before, not after, the behaviour that deems it necessary in the eyes of the Met?

Kettling performs a number of functions. The tactic incites riotous behaviour, making it easier for the authorities and the media to conflate the meanings of 'protest' and 'riot'. It discourages protesters from taking to the streets by dangling the threat of an 8-hour stint in the cold over any planned demonstration. Kettling is also, it seems, working to split the anti-cuts movement by encouraging protesters to blame 'a violent minority' of their fellow demonstrators for their predicament.

This is a mistake. If you are inside the kettle without a press pass or a freshly-pressed business suit, your behaviour is irrelevant. You are fair game for being treated like shit, whether you're queuing quietly or yelling "Tory scum!" If you are inside the kettle, you become a puppet, your movements controlled to suggest the appearance of destructive agency. If you are inside the kettle, you have a choice: you can play along with the performance, or you can turn your anger towards the people pulling the strings.



Listings

October 2010-April 2011, Free ***Hand Made Tales: Women and Domestic Crafts***

Exhibition focusing on the role domestic crafts play in many women's experiences,, the current revival of domestic crafts such as sewing, gardening, and cooking, and historical roots of the domestic arts.

The Women's Library **25 Old Castle Street** **London E1 7NT**

For more information visit
londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary
or ring 020 73202222

Saturday 12th February 2011, 11-4pm ***Women's Institute Crafts Day***

Fun family day to celebrate the crafts activities of The Women's Institute, bringing together members of the WI from different federations to provide a historical context to WI crafts programmes, its role in saving traditional crafts, the contemporary work of the WI and an opportunity to learn more with stalls, displays and demonstrations of patchwork quilting, knitting, lacework, rug ragging and more. Free.

Also at The Women's Library, London (details above).

27th January 2010 7pm

Women Against the Cuts meeting.

London – venue to be confirmed
A group for women to come together to fight the government cuts from a feminist perspective.

Womenagainstthecuts.wordpress.com

31 January 6pm

Interrogating Queer Modes of Belonging

A Manchester Queer Reading Group Series in collaboration with Race Revolt. Part of a reading series of texts that address the ways in which gay rights are being used in nationalist, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric by racist organisations such as the English Defence League, politicians like Geert Wilders, and even by gay activists.

LGBT Community Centre, 49-51 Sidney Street, Manchester.

Further events are planned around the UK, see racerevolt.org.uk/events

Upstairs at the Feminist Library

A brand new series of events starting on 20 January at the Feminist Library - they will be fun, informative, activist, musical, poetic, creative (including embroidery!), and much more. Starts off with an evening of feminist music curated by Acton Bell with music from Helen McCookerybook (Artist, blogger, book author and musician, she's been defined a posh female Chuck Berry), Portia Winters, Josh Geffin (Experimental songs with voice, guitar and electrics) and Acton Bell (Singer and guitarist playing Mersey beat songs & '60s hits).

There will be food.

Entry by donation (suggested £3 upwards) – 19:30 – 23:00.

Invite all your friends!

Dates of further events

17 March , 14 April, 9 June, 14 July.

For more information email us
events@feministlibrary.co.uk or
visit feministlibrary.co.uk

20 January 6 – 9pm

Women's History Month Pre-launch

Women's History Month will be an annual event running throughout March and will comprise events, educational resources, links and ideas for inspiring learning about women's history. This pre-launch event will introduce Women's History Month and will include short speeches and performances from inspirational women from a range of backgrounds. Further information at
www.womenshistorymonth.org.uk
Portcullis House, London
SW1A2LW.

International Women's Day 2011 Events

Saturday 5th March 2011

Million Women Rise

Annual women and children only march against male violence against women.

For more information visit
www.millionwomenrise.com or ring
07727 419634

05 March - 02 April 2011

WOMEN OF FAITH

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Images of women of faith from the culturally diverse area of the borough of Trafford, Greater Manchester by photographer Rachel Adams.

St. John's Church, Ayres Rd, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 7GX.

For more information visit
www.curatedplace.com.

5 March 2011 7pm - 3am

RUBYFRUIT CLUB IWD EVENT

Taking place in Glasgow and raising money for women's charity. Showcasing local talent, comedians, musicians, etc. and culminating in Club Night event by Rubyfruit women only Club.

Winchester Club, Glasgow G1 1NX.

For info email ruby.fruit@ymail.com

8 March 2011 10.00 to 16.00

IWD CELEBRATION

Walthamstow Library will be celebrating International Women's Day with an open public event with various organisations attending.

Walthamstow Library, High Street , London, E17 7JN

For further information visit
www.walthamforest.gov.uk/index/leisure/libraries

March 1-31

WISEWORDS

Celebrates women writers, performers and artists with a diverse line-up of events and exhibitions in selected East End venues during Women's History Month. For more information visit
www.alternativearts.co.uk, email
info@alternativearts.co.uk or ring
020 73750441

12 March 2011 10am to 5pm.

International Women's Day Fair

Artists, Book Publishers, Craftswomen, Designers, Women's Groups & Organisations. Free.
Spitalfields Traders Market, Brushfield Street , London, E1 6AA
Also organised by Alternative Arts (see above for contact details).

Diana Leonard, academic and activist – a tribute

Diana, who died in November 2010, was a founder of the Feminist Library (then known as the WRRRC -- Women's Research and Resources Centre) in 1975. She taught sociology at the Institute of Education, where she did extensive research on gender and education. She was also an active radical feminist, helping to found the radical feminist journal, *Trouble and Strife*, and co-organising the radical feminist conference which led to the publication of the infamous *Feminist Practice* pamphlet. One of Diana's major achievements was to marry the activists to the analysts. She made a space in women's studies for the political insights of radical feminism, which had been strangely missing in British academia (by contrast with movements in France, Italy and the rest of the English-speaking world).

The Feminist Library will be hosting a page in commemoration of Diana on its website. If you would like to contribute any memories or thoughts about her, or relevant images, please send them to dianaleonard@feministlibrary.co.uk

Book Review

The Female Man by Joanna Russ (Beacon Press, 1975)

The science fiction genre readily maintains its appeal to geeks. Though unfortunately science fiction books by female authors are not received with wider interest. Thankfully, the Feminist Library preserves bookshelves of women's sci-fi literature which shatters the stereotype that this genre is only the product of male fantasy. The use of science fiction allows the writer to explore alternative social norms - in the case of 'The Female Man' the author, Joanna Russ takes the reader on a journey viewing life from a woman's perspective.

First published in 1975, the book is a fantastical story of four women living in different worlds, who travel into each other's world to face dilemmas about women's role in society. The main characters leading this adventure are Janet Evason 'the female man' from Whileaway (world without men), Joanna (world similar to Earth), Jael (world of terror with men and women in conflict with each other) and Jeannine (world in continued Great Depression). Russ uses familiar everyday incidents to question the general social norms on Earth. For example, Janet enters Joanna's world, and in a bar Janet physically assaults a man, who fails to realise his earlier advances were not welcomed. Janet, coming from Whileaway, challenges the man for making rash judgements, which often leads to misunderstanding between both genders. Both Joanna and Janet feel uncomfortable with this incident and the writer questions the reasons why.

The book allows readers to follow the crossover from one world to another. Russ warns the readers when a chapter is a complete rant, which I find hysterically funny to read, because people's ignorance about female sexuality is prevalent today. However I found Janet's character occasionally irksome because she's continually unable to sympathise with the three other main characters even though she possesses human emotions and feelings. Sci-fi allows Joanna Russ to discuss gender divisions in flux through the characters' predicaments, and it proves survival of humankind is dependent on equality. Since the publication of 'The Female Man' there have been few heroine figures in popular cultures, especially sci-fi fantasy films and books. Often the fixation of a modern heroine is far more on sexuality than on being intellectually powerful.

Russ wrote the book at the height of the feminist movement in the 1970s, and the novel addresses the struggle of women's identity outside the marital norms. Sadly 'The Female Man', apart from a historical account of female liberation, proves relevant as recurring inequalities are faced by women today. Therefore, there is much need for the resurgence of female science fictions writers and it makes a refreshing contrast to ordinary sci-fi books.

Suhkvinder Dhaliwal

If you are interested in reviewing books for the newsletter do please email us admin@feministlibrary.co.uk.

New acquisitions - The library is grateful to receive new publications – please keep sending them in. Future issues of the newsletter will contain listings and more reviews.

The Feminist Library Newsletter

ISSN: 0951-2837

Contributors

Una Byrne

Gail Chester

Rosa Martyn

Sophie Jones

Suhkvinder Dhaliwal

Contact Details:

The Feminist Library

5 Westminster Bridge Rd

London

SE1 7XW

020 7261 0879

admin@feministlibrary.co.uk

www.feministlibrary.co.uk



Newsletter No. 6 March 2010
International Women's Day Edition

Formerly known as the Women's Research and Resource Centre, the Feminist Library was set up in 1975 by a group of women to record and document the Women's Liberation Movement and safeguard its history.

2010 is the 40th anniversary of the first Women's Liberation Movement conference at Ruskin College, Oxford, and also the 35th anniversary of the Feminist Library.

We are open every Saturday from 11 to 4:45, and at other times by appointment. Occasionally we are closed for special events, such as Saturday 6th March for Million Women Rise, so do please check www.feministlibrary.co.uk before visiting.

The Feminist Library is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Lottery grant under the Awards for All Programme.

This grant will fund the training of 15 volunteers in various aspects of radical librarianship using the Feminist Library as a teaching resource. Amongst other things, they will learn about cataloguing and the Feminist library's unique classification system, as well as helping to computerise our catalogue using KOHA, an open-source library management system. Alongside the hands-on experience, we will provide a programme of talks and presentations on various aspects of radical librarianship. The talks will start in mid-April, and will be open to other interested people for a small fee. Please email us for more information about this.

This project is extremely important to the Feminist Library, and we are extremely grateful to Awards for All for the funding. Not only will it provide volunteers with valuable skills, training and hands-on experience of working in a radical library, but by the end of the year-long project, the Feminist Library Catalogue will finally be on-line and accessible to anyone with internet access.

Currently the wealth of material that resides within the library is relatively inaccessible. Users must visit the library in person and then navigate the card-catalogue system in order to find what's available. The on-line catalogue, once completed, will allow all those interested in the Feminist Library collection to view the catalogue before making the journey to visit the library. The Feminist Library collection is huge, and is testament to the hard work of the many individual women and groups and the material they produced, as well as the countless women who have worked to ensure that this material is preserved for future generations. The on-line catalogue will open this material to the world and is an important project in terms of herstory, feminism and feminist activism.

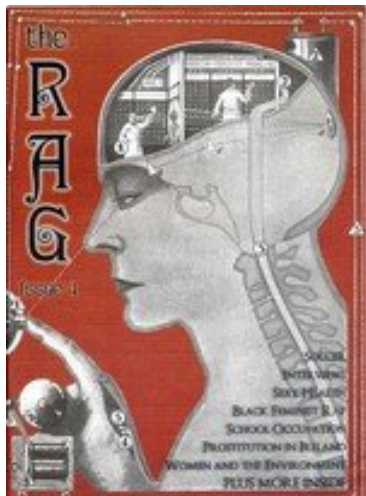
The Feminist Library is looking for volunteers who are either unemployed, or employed below their current skill level, or perhaps just seeking a new path in life. The free training offered by this programme will provide an excellent basis for going on to more formal training courses and for seeking librarianship posts. We can cover reasonable childcare and travel expenses for volunteers.

Anyone interested in the training project should contact the Library for more information; email admin@feministlibrary.co.uk before Friday 12th March.



LOTTERY FUNDED

New Acquisitions in the Feminist Library



The Rag Issue 4 – The RAG is a yearly anarchafeminist magazine produced and published by Revolutionary Anarchafeminist Group who are a publishing collective in Dublin, Ireland. This, their fourth issue, is jam packed with loads of great articles, rants, art and recommendations on a diverse range of topics, including prostitution in Ireland, single parenting, traveller women at the forefront of change, childhood obesity, women in engineering, interview with mothers involved in a Glasgow school occupation, smoking, women and rap and lots, lots more.

The Rag Issue 4 is available to buy from 56a Infoshop (56 Crampton St, SE17 3AE, www.56a.org.uk), Housmans Bookstore (5 Caledonian Road, N1 9DX, www.housmans.com) and Freedom Bookshop (Angel Alley, E1 7QX) as well as from the Feminist Library.

For more info on the Revolutionary Anarchafeminist Group, visit www.ragdublin.blogspot.com or email ragdublin@riseup.net.

DO YOU REMEMBER OLIVE MORRIS?

In our last newsletter (October 2009) Sarah O' Mahoney wrote an article on the Remembering Olive Morris Collective who have been using the Feminist Library to research Olive Morris.

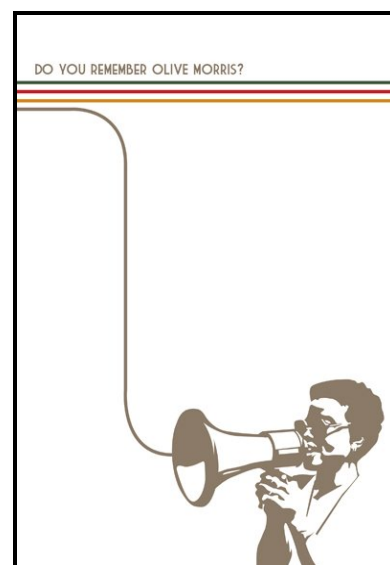
Since then the Remembering Olive Collective have produced a beautiful book about Olive Morris and the journey that the collective have gone on in their aim to discover, remember and draw attention to the inspirational life of Olive Morris.

This book is the story of the Remembering Olive Collective, as well as the story of Olive Morris. Through the use of oral history interviews, as well as photographs, letters and writing by Olive Morris, her friends and comrades, it provides us with the historical, social and political context of Olive's life, activism and the struggles she was involved in: racism, sexism, police repression, and so much more. She was an active member of the Brixton Black Panther Movement, a founding member of the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD) and started, along with other women, the Brixton Black Women's Group, as well as being central to the squatter and housing campaigns of the 1970s in Brixton.

The book also provides the background and context of the Remembering Olive Collective

and their journey into creating a permanent memorial to Olive Morris.

This is a beautiful book with many illustrations and an important historical document. It documents the real life story of feminist activists seeking out, discovering and sharing the life of a feminist activist. There is a lovely chapter about the Feminist Library, and the collective's visit to research Olive Morris. For details on where to find the book and information about Olive Morris and the Remembering Olive Collective, visit rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com



Cover of *Do You Remember Olive Morris?* design by Inua Ellams.

Listings

International Women's Day 2010 events

Here are few of the many events happening across London and the UK on or around International Women's Day. For a full listing of events celebrating IWD visit www.internationalwomensday.com.

6 March Million Women Rise

National women and children only demonstration against male violence. Meet 12pm at Park Lane, London (nearest tube Marble Arch) for march through central London to Trafalgar Square where there will be a rally and celebration from 3 – 4:30pm.

After March Celebration – The 52 Club, 52 Gower St, London WC1E 6EB (wheelchair accessible venue). Doors open 4:30pm to 1am. Films, food, performances, chill-out space, djs and swimming pool. Donation on the door - waged £10, low waged £5, unwaged donation.

For more information email info@millionwomenrise.com, call 07727 419634 or visit www.millionwomenrise.com.

Working Class Movement Library

51, The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX

6 March 11am Living Libraries – where books come to life.

A range of women storytellers will share their experiences of life as active trade unionists.

2.30pm Talks by Sarah Irving about the life and politics of Palestinian activist Leila Khaled & **Linda Clair** will reflect on her own political involvement and activity over many years. For more information visit www.wcml.org.uk, or telephone: 0161 736 3601

5 – 7 March London Freeschool, 195 Mare St, Hackney, E8 3QE

The fifth London freeschool since 2008 is organised around issues of gender oppression and emancipation and will feature lots of great workshops, including; diy radio, puppet making, Spanish, sexual consent, the politics of menstruation, free and open source software, costume / underwear making, bike repair, welding, and discussions on gender and mental health, charisma and authority, what are children for?, and lots more. For full details visit londonfreeschool.wordpress.com or email: londonfreeschool@riseup.net

10 March 7:30pm Natasha Walter Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX

Part of the Writing From the Front Line Series, Natasha Walter will talk about what feminism means in 2010. For more information and tickets visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Tickets £7.50.

7 MARCH IN LONDON – Reclaiming Birth March and Rally

1pm Assemble in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road, London SE1 4EQ. The march will take a route from the Park to Whitehall via Westminster Bridge.

Called by AIMS, NCT, RCM, IMUK, Albany Mums and Midwifery Practice, in response to the sudden closure of the highly successful and loved Albany Midwifery Practice in south London and concerns about the state of maternity services and the lack of options available to women.

See website www.aims.org.uk/reclaimingbirth.htm for information about the Rally, background information and about letters of support.

Glasgow Women's Library, 81 Parnie Street Glasgow, G1 5RH

Monday 8 March, 1pm A Way With Words

A special exhibition for the launch of Glasgow Women's Aid publication "A Way With Words" from women who have left abusive men.

Tuesday 9th March, 1pm: Learning about International Women's Day

Learning event to celebrate International Women's Day. For more information go to www.womenslibrary.org.uk

MONDAY 8 MARCH 7:30 pm - Free screening of "Hidden Herstories: Women of Change"

Upstairs at the Ritzy Cinema, Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW2 1JG

Remembering Olive Collective presents the South London premier of a youth-led documentary film and heritage project which looks at four influential women who haven't had their rightful place in the history books.

8 March 7:30 pm International Women's Day Benefit – free entry

Lansdowne Club, 195 Mare St, E8 3QE

All proceeds go to Global Women's Strike

12 – 13 March Ruskin College, Oxford Women's Liberation Movement @ 40 conference.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first Women's Liberation Movement conference and exploring the intervening period, feminist work and changes in society. For full details and to book visit www.wlm40conference.org.uk.

Listings continued...

Throughout March - Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX

Focus on Feminism - To celebrate International Women's Day, Housmans Bookshop present a series of feminist and woman-positive events.

Saturday 6th March - 5pm. 'Feminism Today' with Nina Power and Lindsey German

Wednesday 10th March - 7pm. Zed Books present 'Glamour: Social History, Women and Feminism' with Carol Dyhouse

Wednesday 24th March - 7pm. 'Women and Activism' with Maya Evans and Tamsin Omond

Wednesday 31st March - 7pm. 'Dissenting Women of the Eighteenth Century' with Jennifer C. Kelsey.

Throughout the month there will also be photographs on display from Cynthia Cockburn and Alex Brew.

Full details are available at www.housmans.com or by ringing +44 (0)20 7837 447

The Women's Library, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT

Until 17 April 2010 - Ms Understood: Women's Liberation in 1970's Britain (entrance free)

An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the country's first national Women's Liberation Conference at Ruskin College, Oxford.

Friday 12 and Saturday 13 March 2pm - 10pm

Wisewords Book Fest - Two days of thrilling, thoughtful, radical and humorous writing by women authors with their latest publications. £12 for one day, £20 for two days.

Saturday 20th March 10am to 3.30pm - Self-Publishing and Liberation £10 / £8 concessions
Practical workshop about self-publishing with Gail Chester and Amanda Sebestyen. You can participate in creative exercises that will arm you with the inspiration and tools to start publishing your own material.

For more information visit

www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary

Berta Freistadt: University of Bristol Theatre Collection

The University of Bristol Theatre Collection (www.bristol.ac.uk/theatreollection) issued the following statement in Issue 22 of its newsletter:

"The Theatre Collection has always been proud to have amongst its collections the work of lesbian feminist playwright Berta Freistadt. At the end of 2009, following Berta's sad death from cancer earlier in the year at the age of 67, the remainder of her theatre archive was delivered to the Theatre Collection by the executors of her estate.

Berta was as well known as an actor, playwright, poet, teacher and short-story writer as she was as a performance poet on the London scene.

The archive held at the Theatre Collection contains her work as a playwright, including many scripts, research notes and books, as well as information about her teaching.

Berta also most generously left a bequest to support the cataloguing and care of her archives and others at the Theatre Collection."

Her poetry archive is held at the Women's Library www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary.

A celebration of Berta's life will be held in London on Saturday 5th June. For more details please contact will.mowat@queenspark.me.uk.

The Feminist Library is able to provide meeting rooms for feminist groups for a small donation and subject to availability. We always welcome more volunteers to help run the library. For further information contact us at admin@feministlibrary.co.uk.

The Feminist Library Newsletter
ISSN: 0951-2837

Contributors
Una Byrne
Wendy Davis
Gail Chester

Contact Details:
The Feminist Library
5 Westminster Bridge Rd
London
SE1 7XW
admin@feministlibrary.co.uk
www.feministlibrary.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

No. 7 / October 2010



WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF THE FEMINIST LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

The past few months have seen a flurry of activity at the library, with 15 volunteers taking part in the FEMINIST LIBRARY'S LIBRARIANS FOR TOMORROW TRAINING PROGRAMME. Funded by Awards for All the programme has enabled us to provide training in various aspects of radical librarianship for people unemployed and interested in librarianship and information management. We hope the programme will provide a good basis for going on to more formal training courses and for seeking librarianship posts.

This project has been extremely important and enriching for the Feminist Library and has very much been a two-way exchange. The Feminist Library has hopefully provided the volunteers with skills, training and hands-on experience of working in a radical library, and has resulted in lots of new energy, ideas, skills and input been given by the trainees to the library. And much serious progress been made with the Feminist Library on-line catalogue. We look forward to completing the online catalogue in the coming months - watch this space for further details. It has been great to see so many enthusiastic and passionate women among the stacks and really engaging with and getting involved in the Feminist Library.

This newly revamped newsletter is very much part of this process. It has been created by the trainees, and is reflective of their passion, creativity and hard-work.

As the training programme comes to an end, the Feminist Library management committee and trustees would like to thank all those who participated in the Librarians for Tomorrow programme, including the Bishopsgate Library, the Women's Library, 56a Infoshop, the Itinerant Poetry Librarian, Anne Welsh of University College London, and everyone else who has helped make it a success. We would especially like to thank all the fantastic trainees for participating in the programme and contributing so much to the Feminist Library.

contents

PERIODICALS LIST
SHEDDING SOME LIGHT
ON THE SUBJECTS 2.

UNCHARTING TERRITORY 3.
A NEW FEMINISM? 4.

ADVENTURES IN KATE BUSH
AND THEORY 5.

BIBLIOTECA DE MUJERES
FROM THE ARCHIVES 6.

ONE DIMENSIONAL WOMAN 7.
LISTINGS 8.



Some of the Librarians for Tomorrow trainees

Periodicals List

BY BECKY AIZEN



You may not be able to judge a book by its cover but you can certainly put together a future reading list of periodicals held at the Feminist Library simply on the basis of their wonderful titles. Here are the ones that caught my eye:

Catcall (UK), Dirty Dishes (UK), Bitches, Witches and Dykes (New Zealand), It Ain't Me, Babe (US), Spinster (UK), Lunch (UK), Me, Jane (Australia), Big Apple Dyke News (US), Hysteria (UK), Labour Pains (US), Red Rag (UK), Shebang (US), Shrew (UK), Mom's Apple Pie (US)

Shedding Some Light On The Subjects

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMINIST LIBRARY TRAINEE BY ALICE CORBLE



Thursday 8th July 2010, 6pm...

Today at the Feminist Library I engaged in some highly productive procrastination. I did not do my quota of Koha cataloguing; I did not attend to my sprawling list of emails awaiting replies; I did not work on organising the newsletter. Sitting at the librarian's desk to face this to-do list, I could not help but feel oppressed by the towering stacks of journals, papers and magazines that occupied every inch of the broad window frame to my left. The sounds of the Southwark streets below were muffled by the precipitous piles of periodicals sadly relegated against the dirty windowpane. Surely dreams of working in library 'stacks' should not resemble this?

When was the last time this office felt the light and air of the day on its dusty furnishings? Poor Feminist Library. In the face of several years of crisis and near closure, the physical fabric of the library itself has been suffocating under the weight of organisational and financial pressures, rendering contemporary feminist theory inaccessible in dark and dusty corners. Something this new should not feel so old.

I decided to do something about it. Armfuls at a time, I transferred the jumbled heaps on the windowsill to ordered piles on the floor, gradually illuminating the room and the subjects it contained as I did so. This was a therapeutic process both for me and the library: allowing the room to breathe and the journals to be touched and opened. Through my hands-on sorting and shelving, I discovered hidden gems such as a 1989 first edition of *'Quim Magazine'*, back issues of *Spare Rib*, *Bitch* and *Subtext Magazines*, as well as a wealth of recent knowledge published in the likes of *Women's History Review*, *Feminism and Psychology*, *Hecate*, *Women's Environmental Network*

News and reports from NUS and the Equalities Commission (to name but a few).

It's going to be a challenge balancing my desire to both read and re-organise the contents of this remarkable library...

IN MAY 2010, THE FEMINIST LIBRARY WELCOMED A UNIQUE VISITOR TO THEIR TRAINING PROGRAMME, WHO EDUCATED VOLUNTEERS ABOUT THE VALUE OF AN 'ITINERANT POETRY LIBRARY'. ITALA ATTIEH REPORTS.

Uncharting Territory

Sara Wingate Gray, a.k.a. The Itinerant Poetry Librarian (TIPL), is the literal personification of a radical library. Travelling across the globe, this one-woman mobile library assumes the subversive guise of a stereotypical librarian and goes on a mission to share her love and undeniable passion for poetry and for the concept of libraries.

Hauling all the poetry she can physically carry from one place to another, TIPL has given herself the admirable task of bringing 'lost and forgotten' poetry to the masses. Not only does she collect rare and often unique works of poetry



with the aim of preserving them for posterity, she takes it upon herself to make a point of collecting numerous works by female poets and in 2006, The Guardian newspaper selected her as one of the Top 15 "most inspiring, creative, dynamic women in Britain".

TIPL oozes with the D.I.Y punk ethics of the feminist movement and challenges convention with an unrelenting urge for creativity. As a guest speaker for the Librarians for Tomorrow Training Programme, she divulged the endless joys of her project, as well as the grim realities that come with being a nomadic library. We heard tales of couch-surfing from state to state, and living off a few dollars a day, as well as anecdotes about the positive reactions and support from her dedicated members. TIPL's focus is to deconstruct the hierarchical and patriarchal systems that exist in mainstream libraries, in order to remind us of the importance of accessible and inclusive public libraries. Sara Wingate Gray lives where her library is. With no organisational budget, she relies solely on donations and her members are trusted to return the poems once they have been borrowed, regardless of what part of the world they are in.

The success of TIPL, which is now a part of Sara Wingate Gray's PhD in Library and Information Studies at UCL, is due to the fact that it is designed to be user friendly. Her experimentation with the philosophy of libraries and the challenging and witty ways she chooses to operate her library, reasserts the vital importance of having radical libraries. Her presentation allowed us as trainees, to consider the ways in which libraries can be politically charged and how they serve a crucial purpose in providing the public with knowledge and information that may otherwise be disregarded.

TIPL is an inspiration for those of us who want to help the maintenance and growth of radical libraries and her achievements were quite rightly recognised in December 2008, when she was awarded the Women In Publishing, New Ventures Award, "for a courageous departure into uncharted territory." Sara Wingate Gray is a poet, a writer, an independent scholar and an artist, in addition to being a librarian. She is pioneering in her ideas and through her work she is reshaping our understanding of libraries, one poem at a time.

www.tipl.info
www.sarawi

Get yourself a fabulous feminist library bag
for just £5. Available from the library or
online at www.twtee.co.uk.
All profits go towards library upkeep.



>Send us your feminist bookish slogans for when we print some more.<<
>We will send you a free bag if we use your slogan.<<

Eleanor Keane, participant on the Feminist Library's Librarians for Tomorrow' training programme, muses over conceptions of feminism, past and present.

NEGATIVE IDEAS OF FEMINISM

Throughout the years, negative ideas about feminism have filtered through most strands of our culture, from fashion and literature to work and psychology, to the extent where negative stereotypes are now mistaken for the truth. A quick trawl through a dictionary, and apparently a 'stereotype' can be defined as 'lacking originality or individuality, conventional, trite.' Ouch. Nowadays, to be a feminist is apparently equal to being a feminist stereotype: broadly, a rather unattractive, hairy, man-hating, lesbian radical feminist. Sad but true, this is the demeaning stereotype of feminists that many young people have come to accept as the gospel. In a world where cosmetic surgery, glamour modelling and lap dancing clubs have slowly but surely become the norm, second-wave feminism seems to have lost some of its energy. 'Feminism' has become a dirty word, associated with those other unhappy stereotypes of women, the spinster, the crone and the bitter ranting harpy. This raises the vital question: why?

These stereotypes of feminism became part of virulent anti-feminist propaganda in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Yet the convenient stereotype of the physically repellent, militant feminist had lingered around since the early nineteenth century, where it was used against suffragettes and other militant women. Now, it is used to belittle the achievements of feminists yet again, specifically targeting feminist heroines such as Germaine Greer, Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan and Kate Millett. Despite what my dictionary states, these unconventional women were far from lacking in originality or individuality. Between them, these women gained PhDs, published iconic works of the Women's Liberation Movement, earned awards for their journalism, and inspired thousands of unhappy, unfulfilled women to improve their own lives. Suffice to say, moralists, economists, psychologists and probably countless husbands were not amused. Worst of all, with feminist milestones such as the Equal Pay Act and increased access to education for women, many started to believe that feminism was no longer relevant, and this is a view that is still in circulation today.

A New Feminism?

NEW IDEAS OF FEMINISM

Women have the vote, the right to work, the right to plan their families and the right to higher education. Seen from this point of view, women have never had it so good. Yet in reality, there is still a long way to go. Even today, women still live in poverty, are forced into unhappy marriages or suffer domestic violence at the hands of a partner. According to 2001's British Crime Survey, there are a staggering 47,000 rapes every year. In recent times we have seen a number of new feminist organisations shed light on these issues, bringing with them new ideas, a new focus and a fresh energy. For example, the relatively new London Feminist Network (established 2004) has now attracted more than 1300 members. That's a heck of a lot of bright-eyed bushy-tailed feminists joining in just seven short years. Annual events such as the 'Reclaim the Night' march, which originally began in the 1970s, and the Million Women Rise March aim to raise awareness of the devastating impact that male violence has on women. Last year, 'Reclaim the Night' saw about 2000 women of all ages march the streets of London to protest on violence against women. Organisations such as OBJECT (set up in 2003) have gathered much media attention for challenging the objectification of women in popular culture. Through examples such as these, and the campaigning of many younger feminists, a more energised feminism has emerged to combat areas of gender injustice and inequality.

WHAT NEXT FOR FEMINISM?

It is important to note that, although there has been a recent upsurge in feminist activity, it cannot be neatly categorised as 'new' or 'young' feminism. Here, dictionaries are rendered irrelevant, as feminism defies definition. Xsara Helmi, Women's Officer for Goldsmiths College, University of London, concurs:

'All feminists describe, dress, appear, behave and speak differently because we are all unique individuals...the one thing that usually unites young feminism in commonalities is the fight towards gender equality and having a voice concerning women's identities, positions and rights within modern society.'

Feminism is more than just a fight to end women's oppression – however worthy that may be – it is also a celebration: of every woman's individuality, personality and right to choose their own destiny. Feminism transcends conventional barriers such as age, race, sexuality, and gender, and exposes superficial and patriarchal barriers such as physical appeal, class and popular culture. It shouldn't matter what you look like, how you dress or who you're attracted to, as long as you believe that women everywhere have the right to live without fear of persecution or discrimination. In the fight to improve women's lives and abolish negative ideas of feminism for good, we need all the help we can get.



Adventures in Kate Bush and Theory

Debi Withers recently self-published her first book. It's an excellent read for anyone interested in cultural theory, and an inspiration for any budding authors wanting to D.I.Y! Eva Megias spoke to Debi about her book.

alisation of the academy since the late 1990s. UGH! As for my perfect library then, it would be large, like Bristol Central Library, so it could stock loads of archival material. You would be able to order any book published anywhere in the world on inter-library loan for free (or nominal fee, i.e. 50p), free public access to all academic journals as a condition of membership (so it could be accessed online at home), a music & film library which stocked independent titles, a large exhibition space curated by local community groups, a public education programme which included workshops, film showings and lectures. There would be sofas and a lovely vegan cafe there too, and a section for zines. And beds.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO SELF PUBLISH? DO YOU HAVE MANY REFERENCES FROM YOUR GENERATION/PEOPLE CURRENTLY DOING THE SAME? I was inspired to self-publish because I realised I could. I had been involved in do-it-yourself networks for some years before I took the plunge with books. It was the same philosophy to making a zine or a bedroom album, but just applied to a different venture. Also, self-publishing a book is so easy these days, and cheap, if you use Print On Demand, so I saw it as a relatively low-risk venture. To make a book using this method all you essentially have to do is prepare a PDF of your book laid out in the correct way and upload it to a POD service provider (in my case I used Lightning Source which only works with publishers) who then prints the book out on a big fancy photocopier machine. Then, voila! you have a book (you can read more advice in my booklet *Self-Publishing and Empowerment: A Resource for Community Groups*. I also set myself up as a publishing company, HammerOn Press, but you don't have to. You don't even have to buy an ISBN as POD service providers, such as Lulu, Blurb, Createspace, etc, provide these for you. You could also buy 10 ISBNs (£108) and set up a feminist publishing collective like women did in the 1970s and 1980s. The benefit now is you don't have to spend an insane amount of time individually typesetting the words as you had to then. POD publishing is not very labour intensive but it does rely on someone having excellent design skills to do the job well - but who doesn't know a feminist who is also great at design these days? If you are interested in self-publishing I would say go for it! There has never been a better time to do it - and we really need a thriving print culture that can deal with the political issues of today from a feminist perspective. I want to read your book, I want it in my dream library! Thank you Eva for your questions, and thank you to all those who keep the Feminist Library going. Its a great resource for feminist activists, a true inspiration.

Adventures in Kate Bush and Theory and Self-Publishing and Empowerment are available for reading in the Feminist Library now.

www.hammeronpress.net
www.deborah.net/SelfPublishing.pdf

WHAT COULD A BOOK ABOUT KATE BUSH BE USEFUL FOR?

I am surprisingly preoccupied with the 'use-value' of knowledge, particularly research/ ideas that have been generated in academia or are presented as 'sophisticated' (great philosophical works, for example), supposedly beyond the reach of the 'everyday' person. I think my book is a product of me wanting academic - in this case theoretical-ideas to be useful to people. I had a feeling that these ideas would have to be presented in a language that people could engage with because so much theory is not. It's badly written jargon that is alienating and mentally painful to read. Yet there are important things that can be gained from engaging with different ways of thinking about the world - feminism, of course, is a prime example of this. Kate Bush herself is a useful subject for working through theoretical ideas, because she commands the attention of a wide cross-section of people and her work is incredibly pleasurable, fun and stimulating to engage with. I think they are a good combination that together increase the usefulness of both theory and Kate Bush to wider society!

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE PERFECT LIBRARY FOR YOUR BOOK, IF THERE IS ANY?

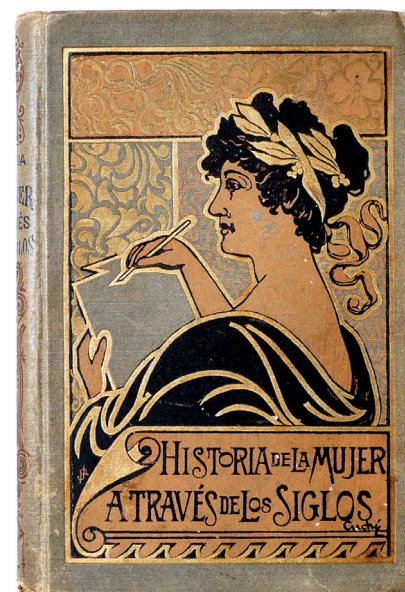
I think public libraries are pretty perfect things. The idea that you can go into a building and take away the books to read at home for free is incredible. Libraries really come into their own when you have no money! Libraries are great places to go and research as well. I've really enjoyed my visits to Bristol Central Library which has a large, cavernous hall where all the local history information is kept. I think it's also great that libraries have wider information facilities, like the internet. Public libraries are simply wonderful things! I am NOT a fan of university libraries, particularly ones you can't get into to read all the expensive, specialist books (the ones that public libraries don't stock). As an independent researcher, not having access to university libraries is a major barrier to using those precious resources. It is a drawback that has only really come into being with the advent of fees and the wider neo-liber-

Biblioteca de Mujeres

Madrid has an active feminist library. Eva Megias had a chat with the founder Marisa Mediavilla to find out more about it.

How long has the library been going, what is its history? The idea of founding a Library came to me in 1985 because of several factors: First of all, at the end of the seventies and early eighties I used to buy any single item about women's studies I could find. Then I thought it was silly to have all those books just for myself. It also was difficult those days to find a proper public or university feminist library. I understood how necessary it was to build Biblioteca de Mujeres to preserve what the Spanish Feminist Movement produced, history that no public library has kept safe. To be a starting point to

create that kind of library in Spain following the example of others in the European Union. Because of my profession, I am a librarian and documentalist. **Can you tell us about any other feminist collections in Spain or Spanish speaking countries?** At the moment there are two libraries created by feminist women or women's groups in Bilbao and Pamplona. Their collections are more contemporary. The rest are institutional ones. Regarding Latin America I know there are some but I don't know if they are made by women's organisations or institutions. **Tell us 2 reasons why the feminist library is necessary in Spain 2010.** The same reasons it was necessary last century. To create a space to collect diverse cultural facts and compile the wisdom of women through History. It is necessary to know, recover and build our identity. **Can you describe for us one of your favourite items in BdM?** It is quite difficult to give you an answer because there are many 'treasures' in the library: like two books from the 18th century, many from the 19th century and



first 3 decades of the 20th century. **Could you describe BdM with only one adjective?** Necessary.

For more information about the different feminist libraries in Spain, see the following web pages.

www.mujerpalabra.net/bibliotecademujeres/index.htm

www.emakumeak.org/es

www.ipenavarra.org/es/biblioteca_mujer

From the Archives

BY ALICE CORBLE

A random dip into the Feminist Library's periodical collection has revealed the following gem: BOXCAR: A Journal of The Women's Itinerant Hobo's Union. The library holds the first three issues of the journal, dated June 1977, Winter-Spring 1978 and Summer-Fall 1978 respectively. It is unknown how these made their way into the collection, nor whether further issues were published.

The journal is named in honour of Bertha Thompson, a.k.a. "Boxcar Bertha", who, after riding the railroads in the '20s and '30s, founded The Women's Itinerant Hobos' Union, which provided vital resources, hostels and casual work for travelling women. The editorial reads: 'BOX-CAR is for the exiled, the dispossessed, and the traveler, in body or mind. For those bitten slightly by the temptation to go, what can we do to push you over the edge?' This is oral history in print: an ephemeral capturing of women on quests to dissolve global boundaries.

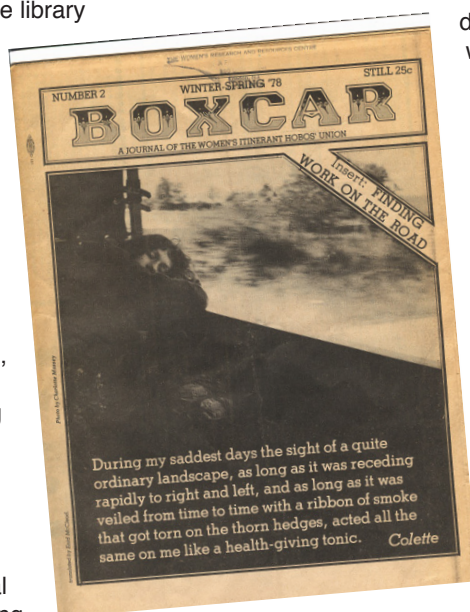
These now yellowed papers from the 70s bear a fragile yet forceful quality which suits its wayward content. Made up of di-

ary entries, letters, poems, plays and quips by women travelling from across the globe, the magazine contains news from North West US freight lines, Paris, India, Greece, Thailand, England, Ireland, Afghanistan and Japan. The stories told seem to me

to be a far cry from the type of travel writing that dominates the publishing landscape today, much of which is written by gap-year bloggers or celebrities on quests for personal development.

Boxcar's contributors are witty, creative and highly talented writers. I was captivated, for example, by Nancy Lay's quietly stunning poetic prose in her journal entries from her travels in the Himalayas. Her tales of getting lost walking in the mountains magically transport the reader into bewildering and beguiling landscapes, as her figurative descriptions of being caught in monsoon mountain rains stream down the pages until we are drenched by her words. Also noteworthy is 'Paula's Pigalle' column. Corresponding from the quarter of Paris notorious for its artist haunts and seedy sex venues, a zone "where all good sinners flock", Paula's ballsy voice tells tales of survival through scouring rich pickings from the rubbish of the National Strike, and finding scattered employment serving the catering and cleaning needs of local prostitutes.

BOXCAR is just one small example from the hugely rich wealth of material housed in the Feminist Library, yet another reason why we need your continued support to make our collection accessible.



Powerful Imaginings

Nina Power's *One Dimensional Woman* reviewed by Alice Corble and Becky Aizen

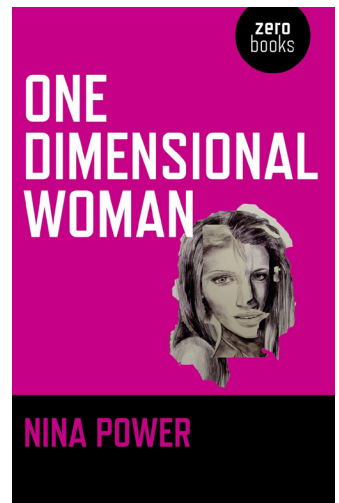
Picture the scene: a classroom full of females. Female A takes a slim, pink, tote-worthy accessory out of her bag, aware of the power of the item in her hand. Female B catches a glimpse of said item, her eyes alight with recognition as she extracts the same product from her bag. We are not talking about two little girls and their Hello Kitty pencil cases here, nor two big little girls and their iPads, vibrators or whatever society has deemed necessary to be a "complete woman"™. The classroom is the Feminist Library, the two women the humble authors of this review and participants on the 'Librarians for Tomorrow' training programme. The item is Nina Power's *One Dimensional Woman*, published in 2009 by Zer0 books.

Why are we excited by this book? Because it is different, challenging, angry and critically meaningful in a way that many of the recent new feminist texts seem to us not to be. It may be pink, compact and handbag-sized, but Power's book is no lightweight chick-lit commodity. It packs a concise and powerful punch against the 'One Dimensional Woman' of its title: the branded figure of 21st century female emancipation who, under the omnipotent logic of late capitalism, is permitted to have her cake and eat it (just as long as she pays for it first. And exercises it off later, presumably). As unemployed women ourselves, we cannot afford this kind of feminism.

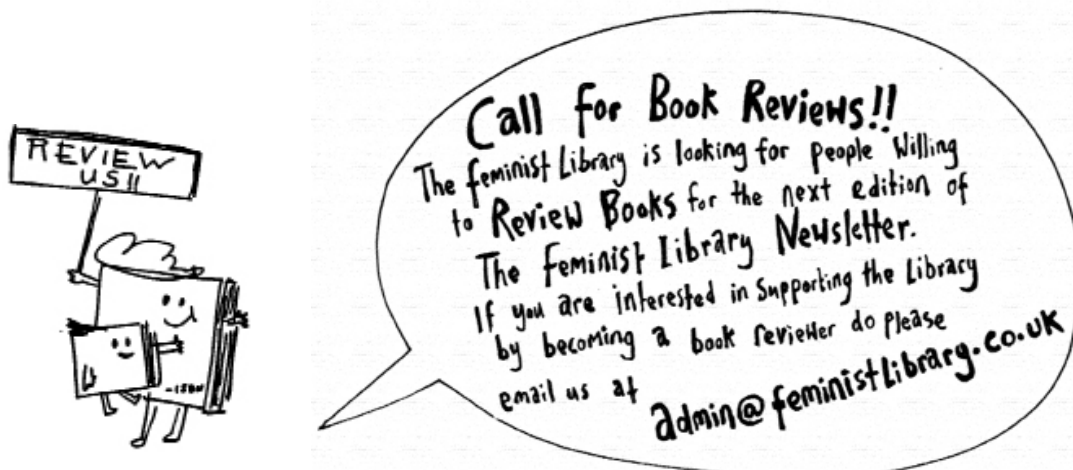
One Dimensional Woman leads us on a concerted whistle-stop tour of enduring feminist issues including work, porn and monogamy. But rather than presenting these issues in terms of simple moral binaries, as so much contemporary feminist discourse tends to do, Power reframes them in the form of a radical critique of the way in which contemporary female "emancipation" is inextricably linked to consumerism and Western political agendas. Power could be criticised for neglecting to consider the range of invaluable work currently being done by feminist activists. However, her aim in this book is not to survey the practical value of the 'new feminist movement' (as can be found, for example, in Catherine Redfern and Kristin Aune's recent *Reclaiming the F Word*), but rather to open up a new discursive space concerning what the vocabulary and ideology of feminism can really apply to, namely the material basis of our positions as women today.

Through her accessible critical theory, Power offers an alternative reading of society that implies a future feminism is possible, providing women can extend their political and critical imaginations to different dimensions. This is not an easy task however, as Power reveals how the language of feminism takes to the stage in so many different guises, from pro-life "pitbulls in lipstick", to pro-choice populists and male-mimicking warmongers. Moreover, thanks to the hegemony of gendered commodity fetishism, female identity has been colonised by objectification from so many angles that "there is no (or virtually no) subjective dimension left to be colonised". Stark insights such as this one could lead the reader to a seriously gloomy outlook; however, the inflections of humour and urgings to re-vision past and future ideals that punctuate this nippy little book can at the same time provoke a more cheery response.

No woman is truly one-dimensional, but you would hardly be aware of that from the monolithic image that contemporary Western society presents to us. This is precisely why *One Dimensional Woman* feels so timely and exciting; it is a feminist call to arms, arms laden with designer goodies, attached to an increasingly eroded self-esteem since capitalism requires from us a constant state of lack and discontent – after all, why buy something BIGGER, BOLDER, BRIGHTER if you are happy with your lot? Power's voice is an important one, particularly because there are none of these commercial interests at stake with the book (admirably, all proceeds go to the Fistula Foundation), and therefore it is a vital addition to the feminist canon in general and the Feminist Library in particular.



FOR A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FEMALES A & B ABOUT THE PARTICULAR WAYS IN WHICH THE BOOK RESONATED WITH THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES, SEE doctorplog.blogspot.com



Listings of exciting stuff happening!

12 MAY - 2 OCTOBER 2010, LONDON

Out of the Archives: New Art Inspired by The Women's Library.
Exhibition of original artworks, inspired by items from the Women's Library collection.

www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary, moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk. The Women's Library, 25 Old Castle Street London E1 7NT.

SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 2010, MANCHESTER

Regional Million Women Rise march.

Women only march to end violence against women and children. Meet 2.30 pm at Castlefield Arena.

For more information visit www.millionwomenrise.com

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2010, LONDON

Child-friendly conference organised by London Feminist Network, open to women and pro-feminist men and with talks and workshops featuring many feminist activist groups.

Find out more and register at www.feminisminlondon.org.uk or email: info@feminisminlondon.org.uk.

12 - 14 NOVEMBER 2010, LONDON

Ladyfest is a community-based non-for-profit festival created 10 years ago that aims to celebrate the creativity, spirit and talents of womyn.

With art, music, activism, crafts, politics and lots, lots more, Ladyfest ten looks set to be an amazing event.

For more information visit www.ladyfestten.com.

13 - 14 NOVEMBER 2010, DUBLIN

Feminist Gathering, Dublin Held by Revolutionary Anarchafeminist Group (RAG). Discuss, learn and share in a radical but supportive environment. Children welcome.

For more info visit ragdublin.blogspot.com or email ragdulin@riseup.net.

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2010, LONDON

Reclaim The Night, London.

Organised by London Feminist Network.

Assemble 6pm central London for women-only march followed by mixed rally and party at the Camden Centre, Euston till late.



www.feministlibrary.co.uk

Feminist Issue Contributors: Una Byrne, Gail Chester, Alice Corble, Becky Aizen, Eleanor Keane, Itala Attieh, Katie Sutton, Emma Thatcher and Eva Megias

Please get in touch!!
If you can spare a few hours each month to help keep the library open and running.

Assistance of any kind would be greatly appreciated and contribute to safeguarding this wonderful resource for the future.

VOLUNTEER CALL-OUT

"YOUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU"

Coming soon!

A fundraising benefit to celebrate 35 years of the Feminist Library... featuring a glittering array of feminist performers old and new.

Watch this space for further details.

<The Feminist Library Newsletter><

<ISSN: 0951-2837><

<5 Westminster Bridge Rd London, SE1 7XW><

<0207 261 08><

<admin@feministlibrary.co.uk><

<Registered Charity no. 202410><



LOTTERY FUNDED