



# Feminist Library Newsletter

No. 14 Spring 2013

## Women's Studies Without Walls

Despite the freezing, snowy weather, over a hundred women came to enjoy the warmth of WSWW at the Feminist Library on 19th and 20th January. We achieved many of our initial goals, by presenting a range of workshops, talks, and skill-sharing sessions around the theme of 'The Personal is Political'. Ruth Fox, who came to WSWW from Oxford, reports:

"The idea of the weekend was to break down the divide between academic 'women's studies' and the real-life experiences of women, making the topics of feminism and gender more accessible to all, and so the event began with a back-to-basics discussion on 'What is feminism?', with women discussing what feminism meant to them, and what challenges the feminist movement faces. I attended a workshop on feminist sex and relationships education -- probably the most revealing session of the weekend for me. We were encouraged to discuss our own experiences of sex education: what was good, what was bad, and what was missing altogether. Participants had lots to say, and there were some very useful suggestions on alternative sex education. I also enjoyed a session on the basics of consciousness-raising, where we were able to share our own experiences of sexism with others, and share ideas for dealing with it.

The event was open to all self-defining women. I found this to be incredibly liberating, as so often I find political events are dominated by male voices and male experience. It was also wonderful to finally be able to call myself a woman, not just a person, and acknowledge the struggles that women face without being labelled as 'hysterical' or told I was 'making a fuss over nothing'. Hopefully we'll be seeing more events like this in future, I think they are much needed and provide a useful platform for organising to tackle gender oppression."

We received other positive feedback, especially about how intergenerational the weekend was (attendees spanned the age range from early 20s to 70s) and that we provided a space for women to meet other feminists in person. So we are now moving into the next phase of WSWW by setting up a regular series of WSWW evening events at the Feminist Library, including helping to establish a network of local consciousness-raising groups. We are also networking with feminists of all generations from within academia and without, round the country - we are already in touch with women from places such as Cardiff, Swansea, Shrewsbury, the East Midlands, Leeds, and Oxford - with a view to them setting up sister events. To find out more about WSWW activities, contact [wswww@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:wswww@feministlibrary.co.uk).

Yula Burin and attendees of her radio production workshop made on-the-spot audio recordings of WSWW participants which are available to listen to at [www.feministlibrary.co.uk/2013/02/04/wswwwpodcasts](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk/2013/02/04/wswwwpodcasts). They record the thoughts of women on 'The Personal is Political', on consciousness-raising, on making Women's Studies inclusive, on connecting theory, feelings and political responses, on the history and value of Women's Studies to activists, the constraints of personal choices by politics, as well as how the event felt. Big thanks to the women who made them and the women who shared their thoughts, and also to Camden Community Radio for hosting the podcasts.

**On Thursday 25th April**, everybody is welcome to a symposium which WSWW will be hosting at the Feminist Library to coincide with the Gender and Education Association Conference 2013, which is being held at London South Bank University. A panel of speakers with a range of life experiences will address issues including accessibility, consciousness-raising, reaching beyond established institutions, and the relationship between activism and academia. The Feminist Library will also be offering tours of the library that day, in addition to welcoming everybody to visit the library during normal opening hours.

**March 1st saw the launch of the very first Feminist Library E-Bulletin.** The e-bulletin will be sent at the start of each month with updates on all things Feminist Library straight to your inbox, and is intended to complement our quarterly paper newsletter. To subscribe to the e-bulletin send an email to [bulletin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:bulletin@feministlibrary.co.uk), with "subscribe" in the header. We would never have been able to get this e-bulletin together without the hard work of Kate and Jessica, so big thank you to both of them from all of us at the Feminist Library.

## First National Feminist Student Gathering

Since the beginning of organised women's struggle, we have sought out dialogue as a means of breaking social isolation. In this spirit, the grassroots-organised Student Feminist Conference 2013 took place on the weekend of 23rd-24th February. This was a chance for growing student feminist groups across the country to meet and discuss ways to smash patriarchy. Workshop topics included activism and mental health, organising on campus, black feminism, education workers' union struggles, unpaid care-work, and trans politics.

The NUS Women's Campaign ran a session on the current NUS research into the neglected area of unpaid carers, over 70% of whom are women. Currently there is a maximum of £55 a week available as support within the welfare system – just £1.16 an hour for carers who work an average of 50 hours a week. Students lose the right to this support and are not formally recognised through policy or student finance, meaning that many women face difficulty in continuing their studies.

Another session was run by the English Collective of Prostitutes, a group set up in 1975 to campaign for decriminalisation of sex workers, workers' rights and protection, and an improved economic situation for women, so that they can avoid dependence on sex work. In the context of austerity, a rise in poverty amongst women has meant a sharp increase in the numbers of women working in the sex industry.

The workshops enabled feminist students to strategise about how to promote equality on campuses. The government, through myriad, vicious cuts to public spending, seeks to backtrack on the advances made by our sisters before us. Women face the growing onslaught of 'lad culture' embedded in university life, amongst other obstacles. Conferences like these will help us forge a fighting feminism for these difficult times. - Ali Sargent, King's College London.

Over 100 feminist students attended StudentFems2013, and there are plans for another conference this summer in Manchester. The London Feminist Student Network meet regularly at the Feminist Library. Please email Ruth at [office@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:office@feministlibrary.co.uk) if you would like to get involved.



*Susuana Antubam, President of Royal Holloway Feminism Society, speaking at the opening plenary.*



**Girl Germs** ([www.facebook.com/girlgermslondon](http://www.facebook.com/girlgermslondon)), is a feminist, not-for-profit club night. We celebrate and promote music made by anybody who identifies as a woman, and anybody who identifies outside of the gender binary.

Girl Germs was partly born out of frustration. We were sick of having to dance to songs all about male angst, or that referred to women only as objects to be abused or put up on a pedestal. We also wanted to meet people who felt the same way as us - people who we could collaborate with, dance with, take part in activism with, and enjoy cake with.

We choose a charity or organisation each time to receive the money we take on the door. This time, we are fundraising for the **Feminist Library**.

Bands:\* Skinny Girl Diet, Shopping, The Wharves. DJs:\* Girl Germs  
Zines\* from Vampire Sushi Distro and the Feminist Library will be bringing their legendary stall! \*£4 entry\*

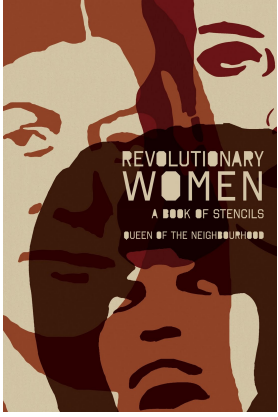
**Girl Germs 27/04/13 8pm-2am @ Power Lunches, 446 Kingsland Road, London E8 4AE.** <http://www.facebook.com/events/162242773927451>.

The Feminist Library stall is an important source of income for us, as well as a great way of letting people know about the library. As well as our badges (right), we sell a wide range of new and second-hand feminist books and pamphlets, our world-renowned tote bags and fridge magnets, and distribute free information about feminism, feminist groups and events. If you enjoy going to feminist events, and are prepared to spend a few hours sitting on the stall, do please get in touch because we always need volunteers to staff the stall. Also if you are organising an event or conference and would like the Feminist Library to come along, please email us at [office@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:office@feministlibrary.co.uk).





## Book reviews



### **Revolutionary Women: A book of stencils edited by Queen of the Neighbourhood, (PM Press, 2010).**

This is a book of stencils of the faces of some amazing activist women, accompanied by short stories of the life of each one. The stencils are bold and graphic, so can be used to make stencils out of card or foam board, which can then be used with paint to

decorate walls, or used in many school and home art projects.

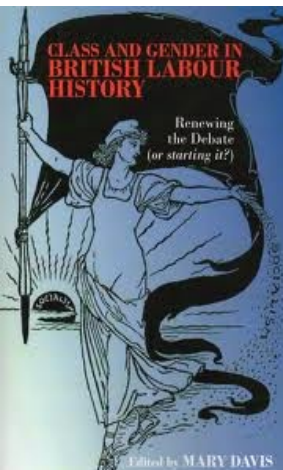
One of the women included in the book is Harriet Tubman, an education activist who began her life being sold into the slave trade at the age of five. During her early childhood, she protected another slave from being hit by their master, and as a result suffered from narcolepsy from the injuries she sustained. She worked on underground railroads, which provided secret housing for people escaping slavery, and during her lifetime she rescued many other slaves and brought them to safety.

The sheer bravery and fight of all the women in this book is astounding and inspiring.

Another example is Rosa Luxemburg who was one of the most important and well-remembered women of the German radical socialist and anti war movement prior to World War 1. She founded the paper *Sprawa Robotnicza* (The Workers' Cause) which was strongly opposed to the views of the nationalist policies of the Polish Socialist Party, as she basically believed in overthrowing capitalism, as many activists still do today.

It is interesting to note that the causes that women activists in this book were fighting for, are still being fought for today, such as overthrowing capitalism, and fighting for freedom from exploitation for women and all people. This is an informative read and a good tool for artists interested in feminist activism, as the stencils can be referred back to time and time again.

*Reviewed by Shelley Jamaine Iqbal*



### **Class and Gender in British Labour History: Renewing the Debate (or starting it?) Edited by Mary Davis (Merlin Press, 2011)**

“Historians have a lot to answer for: our knowledge of the past is filtered through their collective lens” (Mary Davis, p14).

Davis argues that despite the enormous contributions made by

Marxist historians to our understanding of class, the failure of labour and Marxist historians to acknowledge the role women and black workers have played in class formation, trade union struggle and political action, has resulted in an incomplete and gender-blind analysis of class and capitalism. This collection of essays seeks to rectify this omission and document the valuable role played by women in the UK as workers, trade unionists and political activists.

Women and children were among the first factory workers, occupying unskilled factory roles as industrialisation developed, particularly within the textile and clothing industries, and there are several chapters documenting these women workers, the effect of their work on their communities, the development of their class-consciousness, and women's perceptions of themselves as workers and organisers. The income brought in to families by women's work in factories and sweatshops was valued by their menfolk during harsh economic times, yet they reacted against women working and the imposition of industrial capitalist labour processes on them, viewing the necessity of women working outside the home as subversive to existing social and sexual relations and the exercise of male power.

Women workers organised autonomously for better working conditions, joined trade unions and supported male workers' struggles, however many of the trade unions did not support women's rights to a decent wage, and treated women with suspicion. Female labour was viewed as undermining man's right to be the main breadwinner, and it was felt that campaigning for higher wages for women would reduce male workers right to higher wages. The Trade Union movement failed to realise the importance of a decent wage for all, and frequently campaigned for a segregated workforce, with women occupying the lower paid, lower prestige jobs, therefore maintaining the status quo and male workers rights to a superior wage.

I found the chapter on the exclusion of women from the building trade particularly interesting. The authors traced the fallacy of “skill” and “skilled work” as being an essentially male trait, and its use by male workers, trade unions and the capitalists, as a way of deliberately denying women workers access to training, apprenticeships and jobs. The result of this is felt even today, with women depressingly under-represented in the construction industry.

This book is a very in-depth examination of the history of women, work and trade unionism in the UK. Although some of the chapters felt quite academic, because so much of the material was totally new to me, I found it an enjoyable and very interesting read. It enlightened me on my own position as a worker, trade unionist and political activist, and on the impact of the historic sidelining of women on my own perception of class identity. A must read for all those interested in labour and women's history, women's liberation and the class struggle.

*Reviewed by Una Byrne*

## Listings

March 8th is International Women's Day and there will be a wealth of activities happening around the country and globally, to celebrate the achievements of women past, present and future. For a full listing of IWD events visit [www.womensgrid.org.uk/iwd](http://www.womensgrid.org.uk/iwd). IWD has gradually expanded into becoming Women's History Month, a month-long celebration which highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. For full details of the many exciting events happening across the UK for Women's History Month visit

[www.womenshistorymonthuk.wordpress.com](http://www.womenshistorymonthuk.wordpress.com).

**Friday 8 March 2013, 1:30 – 7pm.**

**The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum.** Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral Southwark, London SE1 7HY.

An International Women's Day event hosted by Southwark Legal Advice Network with a range of speakers, including the Feminist Library's own Gail Chester, as well as stalls, the film **Taxi Sister** and a crèche.

[www.internationalwomensday.com/slan](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/slan).

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Million Women Rise, London.**

Annual women-only march to protest male violence in all its forms. Gather @ 12pm outside Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1A 1AB, for march through central London and rally at Trafalgar Square at 3pm, with women-only After Party at The 52 Club, 52 Gower Street, WC1E 6EB.

[www.millionwomenrise.com](http://www.millionwomenrise.com).

**6 - 10th March 2013**

**Women of the World Festival.** Southbank Centre, London, SE1 8XX

Festival celebrating women – a fantastic range of talks, performances, concerts, debates, free music, a marketplace, exhibitions and workshops and more, including an evening with Naomi Wolf. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk).

**Thursday 14 March – 4 April 2013. Heart Talk.** Ealing Central Library, London W5 5JY.

First ever showing of these portraits and abstracts in oils, acrylics and watercolours by Sarbjit Johal. 020 8825 9278. Sarbjit is setting up an art group in Ealing. If you are a woman interested in art or an artist yourself and would like to be part of a group which discusses art, come and join the 'Women and Art group' which will be meeting on Tuesday 26th March 4.30pm at the Green Room, Ealing Library, or email [londec@hotmail.com](mailto:londec@hotmail.com).

**Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 - 7pm**

**Looking Back To Look Forward, Women In Herstory.**  
**An afternoon to celebrate Women's History Month.**

The Dragon Hall, 17 Stukeley Street, WC2B 5LT

An event looking at the use of art and imagination by women activists as a tool for social change. Featuring Keanu Smurthwaite, Rebecca Morden, and Naomi Paxton,.

[www.womenshistorymonthuk.wordpress.com](http://www.womenshistorymonthuk.wordpress.com).

**14 - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**A Room of One's Own.** Espacio Gallery, 159 Bethnal Green Road, London E2 7DG.

As part of Women's History Month, a group of 12 artists offer their personal responses to the ideas presented in Virginia Woolf's feminist essay *A Room of One's Own*, published in 1929. [www.espaciogallery.com/exhibitions](http://www.espaciogallery.com/exhibitions).

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013, 6:30pm til late**

**Feminist Library Fundraising Social.**

To celebrate Women's History Month, our new e-bulletin and the upcoming launch of our amazing new website, we will be holding a fundraising social at the Feminist Library. Music, open-mike, food, amazing company, and much much more.

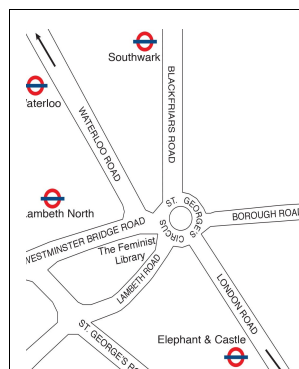
[www.feministlibrary.co.uk/2013/02/28/social23mar](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk/2013/02/28/social23mar)

**March 24th 2013 7:30pm**

**Banner and Broad Arrows.** The King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St., N1 1QN.

A fundraising event for the Feminism in London 2013 conference. A lecture by writer/director Nigel Sheppard on his work so far on a future film about the suffragettes, with photographs taken by the women themselves.

[kingsheadtheatre.ticketsolve.com/shows/873491351/events](http://kingsheadtheatre.ticketsolve.com/shows/873491351/events).



**The Feminist Library, 5a Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7XW.**

**Phone 020 7261 0879**

**Email [admin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@feministlibrary.co.uk)**

**Visit [www.feministlibrary.co.uk](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk).**

**Follow us on twitter @feministlibrary**

**Opening hours:** The Feminist Library is open every Monday 2 – 5pm, Tuesday 11am -6pm, Thursdays 6.30-9.30pm and the 1st Saturday of the month 1.30-5.30pm. We are also open outside of these hours by appointment only. Please email [admin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@feministlibrary.co.uk) or phone 0207 261 0879 if you would like to make an appointment. Please check [www.feministlibrary.co.uk/hours](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk/hours) for the most up-to-date information, including changes to opening hours.

**The Feminist Library Newsletter, Spring 2013 - ISSN 0951-2837. Contributors:** Una Byrne, Ruth Fox, Shelley Iqbal, Ali Sargent, Ruth Nicholson, Gail Chester.





# Feminist Library Newsletter

## No. 15 Summer 2013

### Its been a busy few months at the Feminist Library.

We launched our e-bulletin on 1st March and it has been a great success. The e-bulletin gets emailed out to all subscribers at the start of each month with updates on everything that will be happening at the Feminist Library that month. We have nearly 1,000 subscribers and we have received a lot of positive feedback on the e-bulletin. You can subscribe by emailing [bulletin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:bulletin@feministlibrary.co.uk) or by visiting [feministlibrary.co.uk](http://feministlibrary.co.uk) and entering your email address in the subscribe box.

**International Women's Day** saw the Feminist Library stall at the Women Of the World Festival at the Southbank Centre, Southwark Legal Action Network's International Women's Day event, and Million Women Rise. The Feminist Library stall and volunteers were also at *Looking back, looking forward, Women in Herstory*, an event to celebrate Women's History Month on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

We hosted a well-attended evening of spoken word and comedy on March 23rd at the Library with lots of performers stepping up to the open mic including Catherine Madden, Wanda Canton, Rachael Allen, Hel Gurney, Ann Domoney and many more. March also saw the Feminist Library featured in a cartoon in *Private Eye* (No.1335 8 March – 21 March 2013) about sexual harassment in the workplace.

**In April** the Feminist Library stall was at DIY Cultures, a day-long festival of zines, artists' books and comics at RichMix in Bethnal Green, and at Girl Germs, a feminist not-for-profit club night, which was also a fundraiser for the Feminist Library. Many thanks to Laura and Lydia of Girl Germs for making the evening such a success. We also hosted a symposium at the library for the Gender and Education Association Conference 2013, where a panel of speakers addressed issues about the relationship between activism and academia. Sarbjit Johal exhibited her paintings and gave a fascinating talk about how this work addresses the personal and the political.

**May** brought three well-attended Womens Studies Without Walls sessions: An introduction to Feminist Consciousness-Raising; London Irish Women's Network hosting an afternoon focussed on the Magdalene Laundries; and Women and Disability. We ran two stalls on the same day, Saturday 11 May, when we attended both the London Radical Bookfair and Sheffield Anarchist Bookfair.. At the Sheffield Anarchist Bookfair, Ruth from the Feminist Library and Marian Larragy of the London Irish Women's Network facilitated a session on our Women's Studies Without Walls initiative and the need for autonomous feminist studies.

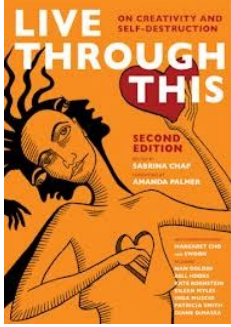
The past few months have seen a significant increase in visitors to the library, groups and organisations using the facilities, and volunteers getting involved in running and supporting our increased activity.

We have also welcomed Roberta Pisanu, who is visiting from Italy and doing an internship at the Feminist Library. She is working on archiving the Diana Leonard Collection. We are about to welcome Zeinab Shaker from Berlin for the Summer, who will be helping us develop our electronic resources.

We are pleased to announce that this Autumn we will be launching the Feminist Library Bookshop Project. Every Saturday we will be selling new, used and antiquarian fiction and non-fiction, as well as hosting readings and discussions. To help us with launching this initiative we are calling for donations - we would really appreciate any secondhand books, and also CDs and DVDs - preferably feminist, but any subject welcome! - as well as any feminist magazines and journals. As we have limited storage space at present, please write to us at [bookshop@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:bookshop@feministlibrary.co.uk) to let us know what material you have, and we will contact you nearer the time.



## Book Reviews



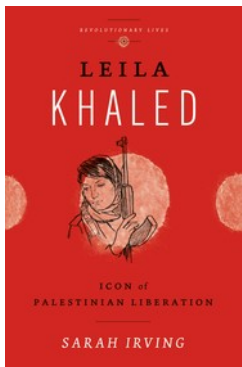
### ***Live Through This*, by Sabrina Chap (Seven Stories Press, 2012)**

This book is an edited collection of pieces by women artists, describing their creative journeys, with images of art work and memoirs of emotional experiences - including whilst writing this book.

One writer who stood out for me was 'Fly', who was very open and honest about her manic depression – this was a refreshing and interesting read. She talks of the extremes of her bipolarity and the difficulties she had in carrying on making her art despite being either deeply depressed or manic. Drawing became a 'stabilising force' within her life and she was always documenting her emotions and experiences through her art. I also enjoyed Cristy C. Road writing about using cocaine, the human connections whilst on the drugs, then the after-effects, where she describes herself as a 'corpse with a newly opened can of worms'. Her language is bold and to the point and the graphic images that accompany her writing are similar to that of graphic novels. The honesty in her descriptions of her recreational drug use is very informative and paint an interesting picture of her different emotional and psychological states.

More information about this book can be found at <http://sabrinachap.com/>

Reviewed by Shelley Jamaine



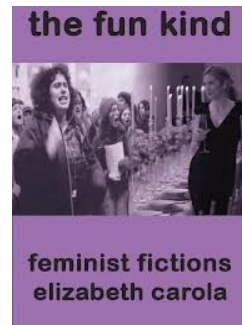
### ***Leila Khaled: Icon of Palestinian Liberation*, by Sarah Irving (Pluto Press 2012)**

Female revolutionaries with as high a profile as Palestinian militant Leila Khaled are thin on the ground. In this short but thorough study, English writer and Palestine solidarity activist, Sarah Irving, attempts to "tread that fine line" between focusing on Khaled as an

inspirational person whose life can "teach us about personal paths through political struggle", and avoiding holding her up as an exceptional hero. She succeeds in this through diligent historicisation and attention to ethical ambiguities. This book is not a hagiographical account of an individual's endeavours, but a nuanced historical biography based on thorough historical research together with extensive interviews with Leila Khaled and those close to her. In this way, Khaled is the figure around whom the book is structured, but much of the content is not directly about her. Rather, her life story functions as a crucible through which to explore the history of the Palestinian diaspora and resistance, including issues of: women in the Palestinian resistance struggle; divisions within the Palestinian and Pan-Arab nationalist

movements; ethical and tactical questions around strategies for resistance, and the relationship with international media and politics. This is particularly useful considering the surprising dearth of scholarship on Palestinian factional politics and militant figures. (Fuller review is on our website)

Review by Tali Janner-Klausner, [lilithlaughed.co.uk/?p=126](http://lilithlaughed.co.uk/?p=126)



### ***The Fun Kind: Feminist Fictions*, by Elizabeth Carola (Siren Press, 2012)**

This collection of short stories by radical feminist Elizabeth Carola is an easy and enjoyable read. Although fiction, the characters and scenarios described are recognisable and will feel familiar to anyone involved in feminist activism.

I particularly enjoyed the first story *Funfems* which is a comment on the significance of political difference and its impact on relationships, and the last story, *Not as we know*, which is an intimate exploration of dealing with serious ill-health and resulting dependency on on-line relationships and e-lists.

All the stories in this book feel very current, referencing protest, activism, trade unionism, power dynamics, class, relationships and of course feminism, and are told in a moving, witty and insightful way.

Reviewed by Una Byrne

## Recent Acquisitions

*The Straight Mind and other essays* - Monique Wittig (Beacon Press, 1992)

*Clara Zetkin: National and International Contexts* - Marilyn J. Boxer, John S. Partington (eds) (Socialist History Society, 2013)

*Irish Lifelines: An anthology of poetry by Irish Women survivors in London* - Eamer O'Keeffe (ed) (London Irish Women's Centre, 2008)

*Reclaiming the F Word* - Catherine Redfern and Kristin Aune, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Zed Books, 2013)

*Memoirs of an Early Arab Feminist* - Anbara Salam Khalidi (Pluto Press, 2013)

*How a century of war changed the lives of women* - Lindsey German (Pluto Press, 2013)

*Making Peace with the Earth* - Vandana Shiva (Pluto Press, 2012)

*Shadow Lives: The Forgotten Women of the War of Terror* - Victoria Brittain (Pluto Press, 2013)

*Textonic Mustangs* - Eamer O'Keeffe (Cicatrix, 1993)

*War Chronicle* - Eamer O'Keeffe (Cicatrix, 1999)

*Esneson: a collection of nonsense poetry and prose* - Eamer O'Keeffe (Cicatrix, 2004)

*Carmina's Poetry Tease* - Carmina Masoliver (Self-published, 2011)



## Eileen Cadman: a materialist with a soaring imagination

### 16th October 1950 – 17th March 2013



*Eileen Cadman circa 1987*

I became friends with Eileen when, together with Agnes Pivot, we wrote *Rolling Our Own: women as printers, publishers, and distributors*, published in 1981, which documents the wide range of activity round feminist publications of that era. Eileen earned most of her living as a writer and editor in commercial publishing, but her heart lay in the practicalities and politics of nurturing her own and her friends' creativity, a vital part of which was the Waverley 8th housing co-op, which she helped to set up and lived in all those years.

Eileen tackled her bowel cancer with the same combination of practicality and humour as everything else in her life, so I was glad to help her sort her papers in the months before her death. Although it was incredibly sad, we had fun reminiscing about the old days in Women's Liberation as we looked through the pamphlets, minutes, conference papers, and personal papers, including her journals. Her book collection included such great titles as *The Feminine in Fairy Tales*, a reflection of her interest in myths and fairy tales, which also shines through her novel, *Reflections of a Vampire*, which she managed to publish as an e-book shortly before she died -- her friends are working on a print version, which will be available shortly. Eileen's collection of books and papers will provide a fascinating insight into the life and thoughts of a grassroots feminist, once her kind donation becomes available at the Feminist Library – Gail Chester.

**Women's Studies Without Walls** is an initiative born out of the Feminist Library in Autumn 2012. It was launched with a weekend of workshops, talks and skill-shares at the Feminist Library in January 2013, on the theme of 'The Personal is Political'. A diverse range of women attended and took part in discussions – women from all generations, from within academia and without, and from all round the country.

The impetus for WSWW was a concern that much of what is now taught in universities as Gender Studies has lost touch with grassroots feminist activism, coupled with a fear that the neo-liberal and cuts agenda across education will remove any possibility of radical education at any stage of learning. WSWW aims to return Women's Studies to its rightful place, encouraging women to take radical feminist action through learning and sharing skills, experience and knowledge. The WSWW weekend has been followed up with a regular series of WSWW events at the Feminist Library. Topics already covered have been on consciousness raising, Magdalene Laundries and institutional abuse in Ireland, and women and disability.

Join us for the remaining sessions of our Summer programme:

#### **Thursday 27th June 7pm. Stuff Your Sexist Boss!: South London Solidarity Federation**

London SolFed is producing a pamphlet about practical methods of resisting sexual harassment in the workplace. So come along, share experiences, and exchange ideas on tactics for working collectively against workplace harassment and discrimination.

#### **Sunday 7th July 3pm – 6pm. London Irish Women's Network hosts an afternoon on the Making and Breaking of Images of Irish Women**

Who do we carry around in our heads? We will be going on a journey around what we've absorbed, what we've made or left unmade, and whether we should be doing anything about it. A participative event.

#### **Thursday 11th July 7pm. Film Show and discussion about a significant episode in recent feminist history:**

*The Great Grunwick Strike 1976 – 78: A History* (Brent Trades Union Council, 2008).

#### **Thursday 18th July 7pm. Review, Planning and Party**

Review of activities so far, and all your ideas for our autumn series, followed by food, drink and music.

All sessions last approximately two hours and will take place at the Feminist Library, which is fully wheelchair accessible

**For more information on Women's Studies Without Walls visit [feministlibrary.co.uk/womens-studies-without-walls-2](http://feministlibrary.co.uk/womens-studies-without-walls-2) Find out about our plans for the Autumn and how WSWW is spreading round the country.**



*Mary Lodato talking about the Magdalene Laundries in front of her artwork*

## Listings

### **Tuesday 18th June 2013, 6 pm. 'Culture', the Cuts and Violence Against Women and Girls.**

Room V211, (2nd floor), SOAS Vernon Square Campus (off Pentonville Road, not Russell Square), London WC1H 0XG  
Public meeting to discuss sexual abuse, grooming, and other forms of violence against women and girls, how cuts to services and legal aid affect violence against women and girls, with particular reference to services for Black and minority women and the selective invocation of 'race' and 'culture' in media discussions of violence against women and girls. Organised by Freedom Without Fear Platform.

### **21 June 2013 7:30pm. Midsummer Night Picnic.**

The Table on the Marsh, Coppermill Fields, Waltham Forest, London, E17

Waltham Forest Rising is a new grass roots organisation committed to taking action to end violence against women and girls in Waltham Forest. Please come and join us in our Midsummer Picnic at the Table on the Marsh for a fun, family-friendly event to reclaim the marshes for everyone with music and entertainment  
[walthamforestrising.wordpress.com/2013/06/05/midsummer-night-picnic-fri-21st-june](http://walthamforestrising.wordpress.com/2013/06/05/midsummer-night-picnic-fri-21st-june)

### **June 21 – 23. The Lady Doth Protest: Mapping Feminist Movements, Moments, and Mobilisations. Biennial Feminist and Women's Studies Association Conference.**

University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham.  
Come and visit the Feminist Library stall.  
For more information visit: [fwsaconference.wordpress.com](http://fwsaconference.wordpress.com).

### **7 July 2013 7pm. Comedy Fundraiser for Women's Organisations – Stand Up for Women**

Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London.  
Stand Up For Women is raising awareness and raising funds for women's organisations with a night of comedy with some of the nation's favourite comedians, including Andi Osho, Lucy Porter and Josie Long. Tickets from £25.00  
[www.womensgrid.org.uk/groups/?p=926](http://www.womensgrid.org.uk/groups/?p=926)

### **Saturday 20th July 2013, 11am to 7pm. Hackney Flea Market**

Abney Public Hall, 73a Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0AS

The Feminist Library stall, with our iconic tote bags, badges, fridge magnets, Spare Ribs, and out of print feminist classics will be nestling among the vintage ceramics, clothes, jewellery; records, zines, artists, bike workshop, cakes, refreshments, & live music.

### **Monday 22nd July 6pm. She Grrrowls Spoken Word.**

Part of the 'Creative Youth' International Youth Arts Festival at the Ram Jam Club, Grey Horse Pub, Kingston, KT2 5EE

Featuring: Robyn-Astrid, Tabby Farrar, Nikki Marrone, A.L.Michael and Bisha Ali (poetry, comedy & music)  
Tickets, £5 from [www.rosetheatre.com](http://www.rosetheatre.com) and 08444821556 (also available on the door).

<http://www.facebook.com/events/535620389814054>

### **Tuesday 23rd July, 1pm to 3pm. Mixing the Colours: Sectarianism, Your Stories.**

Glasgow Women's Library, 15 Berkeley Street, Glasgow G3 7BW.

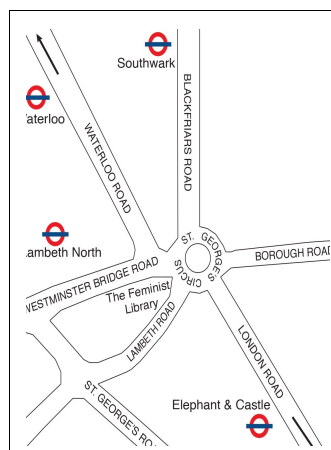
What is sectarianism? How does it affect women and what role can and do women play in tackling it? Explore these questions in a relaxed atmosphere and share your views on and experiences of sectarianism.

For more information and to book your place visit [womenslibrary.org.uk](http://womenslibrary.org.uk) or ring 0141 248 9969.

### **7th - 14th August. Idle WIT Camp**

Lampeter, Wales.

The amazing Women In Tune crew are taking a well-deserved break, but women are invited to come to the site for Idle WIT Camp. In 2013 the planners and other crew are hoping to spend some time with their WIT friends! So this year organisation and other work will be kept to the bare minimum possible - there will be no crew, performers etc, and all who come to the Idle WIT camp will be asked to contribute to the costs - [www.womenintune.co.uk](http://www.womenintune.co.uk).



**The Feminist Library, 5a Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7XW.**

**Phone 020 7261 0879**

**Email [admin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@feministlibrary.co.uk)**

**Visit [www.feministlibrary.co.uk](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk).**

**Follow us on twitter @feministlibrary**

**Opening hours: The Feminist Library is open every Monday 2 – 5pm, Tuesday 11am -6pm, Thursdays 6.30-9.30pm and the 1st Saturday of the month 1.30-5.30pm. We are also open outside of these hours by appointment only. Please email [admin@feministlibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@feministlibrary.co.uk) or phone 0207 261 0879 if you would like to make an appointment. Please check [www.feministlibrary.co.uk/hours](http://www.feministlibrary.co.uk/hours) for the most up-to-date information, including changes to opening hours.**

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