

Library Report

We had a library committee meeting on January 20. Here's some of what we discussed:

Memberships: Reading books is a great escape and has been shown to reduce stress levels. If you don't already have a library membership, you are encouraged to join the library. A membership in the West Kootenay Women's Association includes access to library loans as well as a regular Newsletter. It costs \$15 - \$30, prorated from September to September (i.e. now till September is \$10 - \$20). A separate library membership is available for \$5, if you prefer. Both of these can also be worked off through labour exchanges.

Moving?: The Women's Centre Library always welcomes donations of books to put on its shelves or to sell as a book sale fundraiser. If you have some books at home that you think would be enjoyed by the women who frequent the library here, bring 'em on down.

Privacy in borrowing books: It has come to our attention that there's a need for a more discreet method of borrowing books at the Centre. If you don't want to write your name in a book, tell Karen, Moe or a Women's Centre volunteer, They will write *their* name (i.e. see Karen) on the book borrowing card, when you borrow the book. That way no one else will know what you've taken out. The Centre has a confidentiality policy about this kind of thing, so you will be safe.

Suggestions: There will be funds to buy new books as of June/July. If there's something you'd like to see in the library, let us know. You can put a suggestion in the card basket by the phone. Your input is appreciated!

- Kristen Elder

Book Review

by Lalieth White

Sunnybrook, by Persimmon Blackbridge

Sunnybrook is both an engaging story, and a visual documentation of the art show which helped inspire the book. Persimmon Blackbridge writes in an easily readable and conversational style. (I have seen her read in person, and can hear her voice speaking as I read this book). The format is quite unique, with interjections and sidenotes in the margins.

The story is written from the perspective of Diane, who fibs her way into a job at Sunnybrook, the institution for "mentally handicapped" people. A lesbian with learning disabilities, Diane finds that she relates more to the inmates in her job, than to the other nurses and orderlies. Eventually, she discovers she cannot maintain this contradiction. Set in the 1970s, this is an important peek into the history of psychiatric "hospitals" and the imprisonment of people, especially lesbians.

PS Lalieth read this book in an afternoon! Sounds engaging.

- Kristen

Books New to the Library

1. *For Coloured Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, by Ntozake Shange. Prose poetry in celebration of being a woman and being black. A classic.

2. **Resources for Research and Action.**

Computer Networking: Spinsters on the Web by Ellen Balka. (finally, a Canadian Resource for women to make the Internet more accessible.)

3. *The Wanderground* by Sally Gearhart. (Stories, another classic)

4. **Groups Dynamic**

A Collection of Nova Scotia Her-stories (Need inspiration for your activism? Find out about what the diverse women's community of Nova Scotia has been up to.)

5. *Lesbian Polyfidelity*. Celeste West.

Non-monogamy - everyone's talking about it, find out more!

6. *MAI - the Multilateral Agreement on Investment* by Tony Clark and Maude Barlow.

An important, informative look at an agreement which will undemocratically give large corporations even more power, and what we should do about it. - Kristen Elder

Odds 'n' ends of Events

Moms and Tots has revised what it's doing, and its time of meeting. It is now a group of women, men and children who are meeting to discuss the possibility of starting a **Famly Enrichment Centre**. They meet **Wednesday mornings at 10am at the Women's Centre**. All interested persons are welcome.

Birthing Ourselves : into who we are, recognizing our essence. This is a ten-week healing/support group for women in a place of transtion or challenge in ther lives. It is sponsored by Community Services, and run by Candace Holt. Call 352-3504.

Career Developments has a new contract funded to support individuals with learning, physical, and developmental handicaps for all aspects of employment. They welcome anyone who would qualify for this program. Call 354-3877.

Living With Who We Are: A group for people experiencing chronic pain, physical or emotional. Castlegar & District Community Services. Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30pm, Feb. 18 - April 8. Call 365-2104.

Sappho Sez

An evening of lesbian community & hilarity
Come and participate in *Jeopardyke* or *Sister Feud*,
or laugh at the antics of your friends, old and new!

Friday, February 14 • 7pm

North Shore Hall

\$5 - \$15 sliding scale

Tickets available through the Women's Centre.

All women
welcome

The first week of February is Eating Disorders Awareness Week. So eat lots of what's good for you, and less of what isn't! - Muge