



December 1995

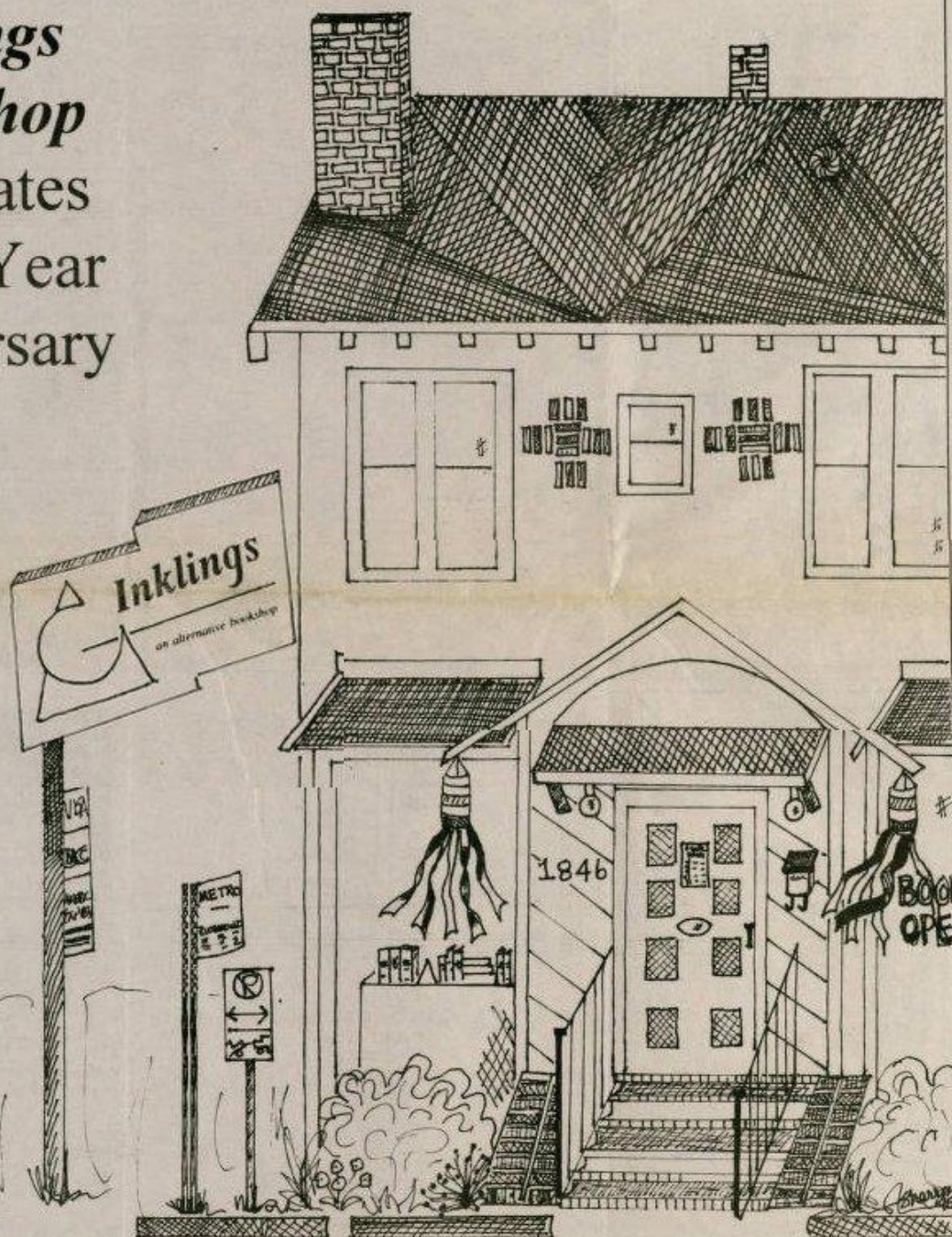
# THE WAND

Vol. 12, No. 12

Womynspace Activities / Networking Directory

Inside: *Alison Bechdel*  
*Audre Lorde Film Review*  
*Suzanne Anderson and*  
*Kelly Jean Go Marketing*

## *Inklings* *Bookshop* Celebrates Seven Year Anniversary



## LiB Annual New Year's Eve Party

Stouffer Presidente at Greenway

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

## Dykes To Watch Out For

mouths  
o'  
babes

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The Wand, December 1995

Womynspace

December 1995

Vol. 12 No. 12. On some pages, comic strips have been digitally obscured to protect owner's copyright.

**Health Fair sponsored by the Lesbian Health Initiative  
January 20. To volunteer, call Virginia at 681-1309.**

## Dykes To Watch Out For

and  
brains  
too!

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## Weekly Events

### SUNDAYS

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection**, 1919 Decatur 861-9149. Holy Eucharist Service at 8:30am (45 min); Choir Rehearsal 9:30am; Traditional Service 10:45am (Signed for hearing impaired and nursery available)

**The Women's Group** - The Women's Group meets at the **First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore at 10:45am** on the third floor. For more info, call Iris 529-8571.

**Dignity** 11am-2pm Coffee, snacks and conversation 5:30pm Holy Eucharist Worship, 1307 Yale. See Jul 8.  
**Houston Tennis Club (HTC)**, Memorial Park Tennis Center, meets from 9am to noon. HTC is a lesbian gay tennis club with members of all levels of play - beginner to advanced. For more info, call Bobby Riggins at 868-5039.

**Montrose Ice Picks will be skating every Sunday through December 31 from noon to 5pm at the new downtown outdoor ice rink, located next to Foley's at 1000 Main St. Cost is \$6 plus \$2 skates.** For info, call Angel at 629-1432. Houston's first-ever outdoor ice rink is the centerpiece of an elaborate, 40-day holiday festival called "Miracle on Main Street" and features elaborate decorations, quality concessions and a holiday market. The rink is a project of the Downtown District's Main Street Task Force and is part of a five year plan to revitalize the Main Street Area. Also skate Monday, January 1 noon-10pm.

**Montrose Flag Football**, 1:00pm at Memorial Park. For more info, call 526-7271.

### MONDAYS

**HeartSong Women's Chorus** rehearses at 7pm in the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. New and former members welcome. For info, call 526-9095.

**Women's Roller Hockey** 6-8pm at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290. All skill levels welcome. Bring your skates, a stick, pads & a helmet. \$8 per person. For info, call Trade Winds at 682-5312 or Houston Inline Association at 863-1107.

**Monday Nite Women's Bowling League** reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is in second. Nine is Fine is third and Walking Wounded is 4th. For info, call Pat 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

### TUESDAYS

**Women's Clarity Group - A New Way** 7pm to 9pm. 5906 Dolores #201, 784-6511. Facilitated by Linda Bedre.

**CODA Support Group** (CoDependency) at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

**Southern Country** Western Dance lessons at The Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 8:00pm.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Lambda Rollerskating Club Skate Night** each Wednesday at Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Road at Beechnut, 575-7655, 8:30-10:30p.m. \$5 admission, \$6 if you rent their skates. Take I59 South, exit and turn right on Beechnut. Stay on Beechnut past the Sam Houston Parkway and turn right on Cook Road. For more info, call Keith at 933-5818.

**MCCR Jubilation Mixed Ensemble** 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal or Bible Study at 7:30pm, 1919 Decatur.

**Get your instruments out of the closet!** The Houston Pride Band has formed to provide musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. We are actively seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Contact Russell Williams for further details at 524-0218 or send E-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

**Bi-NET** Bisexual Network of Houston meets 7pm Wednesdays at MCCR, 1919 Decatur St. 861-9149.

### THURSDAYS

**Nancy Ford at Ms. Bs** performing music and comedy at 8:30pm, 9200 Buffalo Speedway.

**Lesbian & Gay Voices**, 9-11pm 90.1FM KPFT Womyn's music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events, new s from This Way Out.

### FRIDAYS

**CODA Support Group** (CoDependency) at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149 See entry for July 2.

### SATURDAYS

**Dignity** serving Houston's community of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Catholics and friends - 7:30pm Traditional Worship 1307 Yale Ste. H in the Heights. Call for events, schedule, movie night 880-2872.

**Movie Club** for gay/lesbian movie go-ers meets each Saturday to have dinner and watch the latest movies on the big screen. Call 395-2126.

### New group Calendar Girls

We are a new group of women looking for a diverse social outlet. Our main goal is to have fun and meet people. We meet once a month to plan a calendar for the following month. This is how it works: If there's an activity, hobby, etc., you would like to put on the calendar, come to the meeting and we'll put it on the next month's calendar. If you can't make the meeting, you can call Cheryl at 523-4510 or Robin at 942-8888 by the deadline and still have your activity put on the calendar. You'll be responsible for setting it up and you'll be the contact. It's that simple! This group is designed for all of us to be a part of. No one person is in charge -- no particular activity -- strictly social. Pick up at copy of the monthly Calendar at Inklings Bookshop or Toupees Coffee & Co.

## Community Events

### 1 FRIDAY

#### World AIDS Day

**Day Without Art:** A special staged reading of Gregg Rodriguez' **Strip Poker: The Story of Jesse and Damian**, Dec 1 & 2, 8pm, \$7,\$5 DiverseWorks members and student. AIDS Foundation Houston Writer's Workshop director Gregg Rodriguez will present a staged reading of his original new theater piece for DiverseWorks' observation of Day Without Art. **Strip Poker** explores the lives of two thirty-something men faced with issues of death, spirituality, love, relationships and death. For group ticket sales call Gregg at 868-0008.

**Day Without Art Benefit at Chances** next to Charlie's on Westheimer, 9pm.

**2nd Annual Christmas Ornament Show to benefit the Women's HIV+ Coalition**, The Hyde Park Art Gallery, 711 Hyde Park, 526-2744. 526-2744.

Opening Reception 6-9pm. Show will run through the month of Dec. Gallery hours are Sun, Mon, Tues noon to 6pm; Thurs and Fri noon to 9pm.

**New Heights Theatre presents Side by Side**, a collection of 7 short plays dealing with love, friendship and tolerance. Fridays, Saturdays at 8pm and Sunday at 7pm closing with special Christmas Eve performance. 359 W. 19 Street. Tickets and reservations, 869-8927

### 2 SATURDAY

**The Attitude Club - Marianne Pendino**, One Woman, Many Characters. A simple message about our complicated lives. Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. Call 524-6706 for reservations.

**December 2 through December 23**

**Inklings Bookshop Anniversary Sale Saturday Dec 2, 10:30am to 6:30pm and Sunday, Dec 3, noon to 6pm. Music is 7% off, Books are 14% off and Calendars are 21% off. 1846 Richmond at Hazard, 521-3369 or 800-961-3369.**

**Strip Poker: The Story of Jesse and Damian** at DiverseWorks, 8pm. See Dec 1.

**New Heights Theatre presents An Unnatural Woman, a one-woman show about Pulitzer Prize winning American novelist Edith Wharton** written by Scotti Sween and starring Claire Hart-Palumbo. Robin Robinson directs. Gala opening Dec 2 at 8pm. Show will run Thursdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2:30pm **through Dec. 24**. 359 W. 19 Street. Tickets and reservations, 869-8927

### 3 SUNDAY

**Inklings Bookshop Anniversary Sale Saturday Dec 2, 10:30am to 6:30pm and Sunday, Dec 3, noon to 6pm. Music is 7% off, Books are 14% off and Calendars are 21% off. 1846 Richmond at Hazard, 521-3369 or 800-961-3369.**

**The Women's Group** meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

### 3 SUNDAY

**P-FLAG** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays general meeting - Winter Party call Susan Upchurch at 995-9777 to RSVP. 2pm St. Francis Episcopal Church, 345 Piney Point Road, 867-9020.

### 4 MONDAY

### 5 TUESDAY

### 6 WEDNESDAY

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus** general meeting first Wednesdays at 7:30pm, 2700 Albany 304. For info, call 521-1000.

**Gay Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU)** regular monthly meeting, 7:30pm. Metropolitan Multi Service Center, 1475 West Gray. 270-GLHU.

### 7 THURSDAY

### 8 FRIDAY

**The Sound of Encodings**, a reading by women writers to support ENCODINGS: A Feminist Literary Journal, 8pm at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin.

Suggested donation \$3-\$5. For info, call 529-7329

**Stories of the Season: Fables, Carols, and Holiday Songs: The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** presents its annual holiday concert Dec 8 & 9 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased from a chorus member, at the door or by calling 227-ARTS. **Debut CD/cassette recording, To Friends and To Life.**

### 9 SATURDAY

**12 Step Women's Support Group** for addictions, grief work, healing and empowerment, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month for women with at least a year of sobriety. Sliding scale. For info, call Peacemaker at 293-8653.

**HeartSong sings at the Millbend Coffeehouse** at the Northwoods Unitarian Church in the Woodlands, 1370 N. Millbend Dr. 298-2780 Poetry Reading at 7:30 followed by music.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents** - Making Gingerbread Houses 3pm-6pm in the MCCR library downstairs. 980-7995.

**Stories of the Season: Fables, Carols, and Holiday Songs: The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.** See calendar for Dec 8.

### 10 SUNDAY

**The Women's Group** meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

**Sisters** (for African-American women, meets every second Sunday) Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond 5-8 pm. 446-4115

### 11 MONDAY

**Texas Medical Center LAMBDA Network** meeting, 5pm second Monday each month. RAS W-204 (School of Public Health Bldg). We welcome all TMC Lesbian, Gay and Bi- friendly students, staff and faculty. For info, call 523-5539 or sph1319@utsph.sph.uth.tmc.edu

### 12 TUESDAY

**Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week** fact finding committee to research moving the parade date meets at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

**Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents** - a support group for the parents on the second Tuesday of the month and also a monthly family activity, MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 980-7995.

### 13 WEDNESDAY

**Women's Network-Holiday Celebration** -The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus** board meeting second Wednesdays at 7:30pm. For info, call 521-1000.

**Women with Life Challenging Illnesses** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:30pm. For info, call Marion at 667-8735 or Leila at 728-1914.

**OutVote** general meeting third Wednesdays. 7:00 pm 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 713-521-1000.

### 14 THURSDAY

**LiB Holiday Party at Bacchus**, 6-9pm. Cash donation to benefit the Houston Area Women's Center. Call 529-0077 for more info.

**NO LIB MEETING IN DECEMBER**

# 14 THURSDAY

Q Patrol Holiday Bash & General Elections at 7pm at Suzanne Anderson Properties at 239

Westheimer (park in lot 2 doors east). Bring dish, snack or dessert. Call 528-SAFE for info.

Lesbian & Gay Voices 90.1 KPFT FM 9-11pm

# 15 FRIDAY

# 16 SATURDAY

Stories of the Season: Fables, Carols, and Holiday Songs: The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice in Galveston at 8pm. For tickets, call 1-800-821-1894.

# 17 SUNDAY

The Women's Group Kuwanza Celebration-The Women's Group meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

First Unitarian Church Opening ceremony in the afternoon or evening. Call 526-5200 for more info.

Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) meets the third Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Houston Mission Church. The mailing address is POB 98601 Houston, TX 77098. For info, call 661-1482. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door. Rich's is at 2401 San Jacinto, 639-5910.

# 18 MONDAY

Cancer Support Group meets every other Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents support group for youth grades 6th - 12th with gay or lesbian parents, Just For Us will go bowling 1-4pm. There will be at least 2 parents there and rides will be provided if your child needs one. 980-7995.

# 19 TUESDAY

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week general meeting at 6:30pm at 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 529-6979.

# 20 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network - NO Meeting on the 4th Wednesday in December. The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

# 21 THURSDAY

# 22 FRIDAY

# 23 SATURDAY

# 24 SUNDAY

The Women's Group meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

# 25 MONDAY

Happy Winter Solstice

# 26 TUESDAY

# 27 WEDNESDAY

# 28 THURSDAY

# 29 FRIDAY

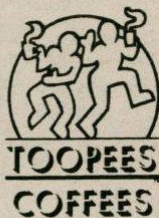
# 30 SATURDAY

# 31 SUNDAY

LiB New Years Eve Party, Stouffer Presidente at Greenway (where TLC was in 1994) - Tickets available at Inklings and Crossroads, \$25 in advance. DJ Cherry Wolf. See flyer in this issue. For info call, LiB line at 529-0077.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents New Years Eve Party 980-7995.

1996 Lesbian Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Slogan is "Pride with out Borders". The runner up was "Pride Don't Stop". Watch the Montrose Voice for details of the Logo Contest or call Pride Line at 529-6979.



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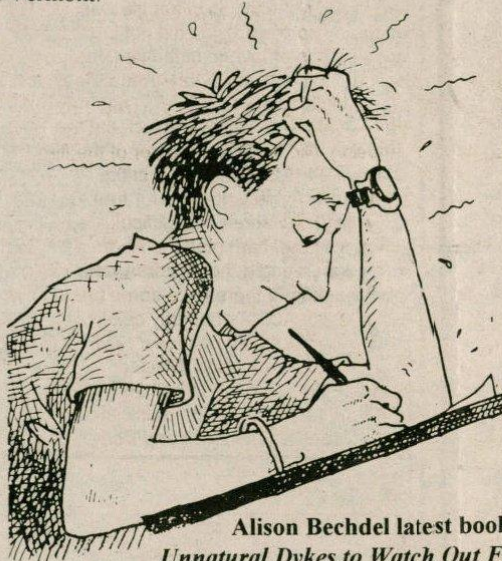
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Alison was  
interviewed in  
1991 by  
Out In The  
Mountains,  
(OITM)  
a publication  
in Vermont.



Alison Bechdel latest book is  
*Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For*

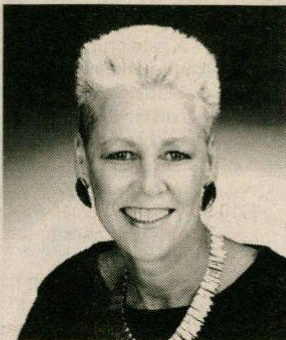
Alison: Well, the real motivation for doing this comic strip is my desperate hunger to see my reality reflected. I think it's such an important, nurturing thing to see yourself reflected. I mean, why do we make plays and movies and books?

Ever since people have been alive, we've created stories about ourselves and images of ourselves... And I'm desperate to see myself because I don't see it anywhere. And I draw the cartoons because I want to see pictures. I want to see myself. And probably I would do it even if no one else was looking at it.

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Although I know of course I am creating it and I'm making these decisions. I'm doing it, but it's almost like it's beyond my control in a way, that it's a process not so much of writing as of discovering.

OITM: Is Mo some kind of alter ego? Or are they all alter egos?

Alison: They all are. They're all aspects of myself...like Lois is perhaps one percent my personality, whereas Mo is more like 30 percent.

OITM: When Mo's political, or when she gets into these really high anxiety states?

Alison: I'm a very anxiety-prone person. I'm very guilt-ridden. But I don't think I'm quite as impotent as Mo. She never quite seems to get anywhere.

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## Inklings Book Corner

A nice crop of new books will make their debut by the end of 1995. Here are a few:

Starting off with humor, we anxiously await Alison Bechdel's sixth sordid cartoon collection, chronicling the lives of lesbians we've come to know, well . . . intimately. This one's entitled **Unnatural Dykes to Watch Out For** (\$10.95), and you'll especially love the retro cover, harkening back to the days of the 50's trashy lesbian novels.

Also, the third romp in the Nancy Clue/Cherry Aimless series is due in shortly, **Nancy Clue/Cherry Aimless and the Hardly Boys in a Ghost in the Closet** (\$10.95). Mabel Maney has put together a completely hilarious send-off of the old Nancy Drew mysteries, combining perky outfits and hairdos with 90's lesbian sex. These have been a big hit with our readers.

The serious book of the season may well be **Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation**, by Urvashi Vaid (rhymes with "plaid") (\$24.95). Urvashi headed up the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force for some years (after I was a board member); she is one of the most articulate, intelligent speakers I have ever heard. She's been working on the book for several years, and I have high hopes for it. (In the front of the book, she thanks her lover Kate Clinton, "for her kind spirit, her wit, and her endless patience.")

**From Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life** (\$14.95) is a revealing collection of personal stories by women who left marriages and came out, including JoAnn Loulan and Margarethe Cammermeyer. This joins the book already out on the topic, **And Then I Met This Woman**.

A most intriguing-sounding new novel is **When Fox is a Thousand**, written by Larissa Lai (\$14.95). Lai, an Asian-American writer, won the 1995 Emerging Writers Award from Astraea for this book, which is about a fox traveling through time, from a 9th century Chinese poet/nun to 1990's lesbian living in Vancouver.

And, to balance our books on butch and gender bending, we now have Leslea Newman's **Femme Mystique** (\$11.95). This includes writings by femmes, former femmes, femme wanna-bes, femme admirers, and femme fatales.

Contributed by Pokey Anderson  
Inklings Bookshop

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## New Year's Eve Party Sponsored by LiB

Single  
Table

- ★ Date: Sunday, December 31, 1995
- ★ Time: 8 PM - 1 AM
- ★ Place: Stouffer Presidente at Greenway
- ★ Cost: \$25 in advance, \$30 at door
- ★ Individual tickets may be purchased at Inklings or Crossroads, or at the November LiB meeting

DJ  
Cherry Wolf

### ▼ New Features

- ▼ More Seating
- ▼ Bigger Dance Floor
- ▼ Reserve a table for 12 people in advance by calling Diana Johnson at 529-0853

### ▼ Other Features

- ▼ Complimentary Midnight Champagne Toast
- ▼ This year breakfast is included with overnight accommodations at the Stouffer

Reserved Tables are \$350 to seat twelve persons. There will be a limited numbers of reserved tables, by the dance floor, bar and the buffet. You can pick the table location subject to availability. There is plenty of seating and the remaining tables will be general admission and there will be a singles table.

For more information, call the LiB Line at 529-0077.

**A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde** was screened at the Museum of Fine Arts last month. Some feedback I heard was that the film did not have new material; just footage that was already in the public domain. Another point was that the last live-in relationship in her life was unclearly portrayed; you did not know if they were friends or lovers. In the film, the woman in question did say "Audre doesn't know anything about sports". That may not be relevant to question at hand, but it's amusing. Nicole Conn, creator of the film *Claire of the Moon*, said that critics, particularly those who write for free, do not know anything about how difficult it is to make a movie. I am glad the Audre's life has been documented; her children were interviewed and there were some home movie pictures like Audre's birthday cake with the inscription "The Gay Divorcee". Aida Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson directed "A Litany for Survival". Ms. Parkerson has also made documentary films of the musicians, Sweet Honey in the Rock and Betty Carter. SC

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## 8th Gulf Coast Women's Festival April 4-7, 1996

Come and create this Lesbian-Feminist Festival: Sober land and safespace at Camp Sister Spirit; Ovett, Mississippi. Brenda and Wanda Henson, Co-producers. Please come and help make our 1st land Payment which is due the week after festival. Workshops, night stape, craftwomyn show, raffle, silent auction, good southern food, and hospitality. Write PO Box 12; Ovett, MS 39464.

# Inklings Bookshop Celebrates Seven Year Anniversary

In December 1988, Pokey Anderson and Annise Parker opened *Inklings Bookshop*. *Wilde'n Stein* (named after Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein) used to be in the building where the Montrose neighborhood police station is currently located. *Wilde'n Stein* moved to Missouri Street and closed a couple of years later. *BD and Daughter* was the only other lesbian bookstore in Houston's history. That opened in the 1970's, but only survived about a year.

As legend has it, Pokey and Annise were having lunch downtown and were lamenting the lack of a women's bookstore in a city the size of Houston. Pokey stated "While we planned *Inklings*, we were moved to action because we believed there was no gay or lesbian bookstore in Houston. Unbeknownst to us, *Lobo*, which had started in Dallas, had moved to Houston that year. Only shortly before we signed our lease did we learn of *Lobo's* existence."

As activists and women of power, Pokey and Annise committed to create a women's bookstore: *Inklings Bookshop*, the only business in town which can boast of two former Lesbian and Gay Pride Week Grand Marshals. Pokey elected to leave her job and manage *Inklings* full-time shortly after the shop opened.

The genesis of *Inklings* is an entrepreneurial marvel; it is a huge endeavor to turn the dream of starting your own business into reality. Pokey and Annise solicited startup funds from friends, lovers, and ex-lovers. Pokey sold lesbian books at several women's cultural events to gauge the community's response. It was like a literary feeding frenzy; hordes of women crowding around a folding table buying books right out of the boxes. At that time in Houston, the only way to get lesbian books was through mail order.

Barbara Grier, founder of Naiad Press, and Ladyslipper, the women's music distributor, made credit arrangements with the new bookstore which assisted *Inklings* to obtain credit with other distributors. Later, Barbara knew of a women's bookstore in Florida going out of business and *Inklings* bought out their stock.

Pokey and Annise made flashcards of prospective names for the new bookstore and surveyed their friends for feedback. *Inklings* was the favorite, of course. When they were looking for a location, they met with one woman realtor and said they needed a space for a gay and lesbian bookstore and the realtor said "Oh, an adult bookstore"

Pokey said "No, we will also sell children's books". One prospective landlady, a clinical psychologist, was told it would be a feminist bookstore. "Oh," she responded brightly, "How wonderful! A feminine bookstore!"

Pokey is a former legal secretary who likes the word "former" the best in that job description. Pokey has said that she did not have the autonomy to make the decision whether to right-justify a margin or not (in that "former" capacity). A occupational hazard is that Pokey is a phenomenal typist and she typed a sixty page business plan for *Inklings*. Pokey and Annise also made a voluminous three inch thick list of books to stock in the new bookstore.

Moving right along, Pokey and Annise found a location: a building at Richmond and Hazard with parking in the front and back and space for a meeting room upstairs. The building had a colorful history. While remodeling, they found bullet holes and bullets in the mantle. During the preparations, Annise had a death in her family and had to go out of town.

The weekend before *Inklings* opened, Pokey made an announcement on KPFT for volunteers to help get the bookstore ready. When painting the interior, they couldn't get the paint sprayer to work. An "angel" walked in with her own paint sprayer and got the job done and left. No one had ever seen her before or got her name while she was there.

*Inklings* opened on Saturday, December 3, 1988. At 5 p.m. the night before opening, not one book was on one shelf. But Pokey, Annise and friends worked late, and the store opened on time in the morning. There was community support from merchants as well; Lucia of *Lucia's Garden* donated a display case and *Lobo* sent flowers. On opening day, women were waiting in their cars in the parking lot for *Inklings* to open its doors for business. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony; the ribbon was tied across the wrought iron hand rails on the steps outside. Pokey asked us if we minded waiting a few minutes while they took pictures. It was a very special day for lesbians in Houston.

That day *Inklings* sold one third of their stock. Pokey kept her day job for two months and then came to work full-time at *Inklings*, at a 40% pay cut. *Inklings* paid off its loans on schedule with interest.

There have been obstacles. Annise and Pokey went to the Small Business Administration before opening. The business

woman assigned to assist them would not believe there was a market for lesbian, gay or feminist books, so it was difficult to work up a marketing plan with her. *Inklings* was inaccessible from Richmond for many months while the street was undergoing construction. A few years back, a woman from "gay" Krogers on Montrose was selling advertising on the back of the cash register receipt but they would not allow the words "gay and lesbian" in the ad. The most recent incident was *Inklings'* listing was "inadvertently" dropped from the Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages; this also happened to another lesbian business that uses the words "gay and lesbian" in their ad.

Pokey and Annise were guest speakers at the first meeting of LiB (Lesbians in Business) about four years ago which was held at *Inklings* in the meeting room upstairs. Pokey and Annise spoke on the topic of starting a women-owned business; most of this article was gleaned from my memory of that meeting. Pokey contributed additional history and fact checking.

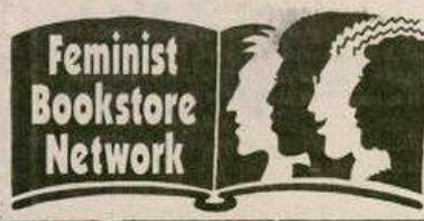
*Inklings* has survived and flourished for seven years. Do you still have the same girlfriend(s), home(s), car(s), job(s) or pets(s) you had seven years ago in 1988? We even have a new expression, "partner" to describe our significant other. I still get a thrill when I hear a seventies lesbian say "my lover". My life has changed significantly, but I am delighted to still go to the same women's bookstore and hope to continue do so in the next millennium, five years from now - in the year 2000.

Sue Cox

I honestly believe there is absolutely nothing like going to bed with a good book. Or a friend who's read one.  
--Phyllis Diller

## Special Thanks

to Sharon Ryan Reed for the sketch of *Inklings Bookshop*. Sharon is the creator of the H.O.W.L. T-shirts, (Hang Out With Lesbians). Her T-shirts are available at Toupee's Coffee & Co and *Inklings Bookshop*.



The WAND is a monthly publication of Womynspace, a 100% volunteer organization. Opinions expressed in articles printed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the WAND or the Womynspace organization as a whole.

**Submissions to the calendar:** Groups may send us notice of their regular meetings and special events by the 15th of the month for next month's issue. We are glad to network with other groups that work for social change and share a feminist perspective.

**Submissions of articles, poetry and cover art** should have positive, coalition building content. Articles may be submitted on IBM 3.5" diskettes, ASCII or WordPerfect format. Please use 3" columns for typed submissions. Sign and include a phone number. WAND Layout is scheduled around the 20th of the month. Check the calendar for date or call 664-9215. We need community support to ensure the WAND is a comprehensive networking directory for the women's community. WAND distribution is 2,000 copies.

#### Advertising Rates for the WAND

Call 728-3637 for information.

| Approximate Size    | 1 month | 3 months |
|---------------------|---------|----------|
| Business Card       | \$25    | \$67.50  |
| 1/8 Page (3.5 x 5") | \$30    | \$80     |
| 1/4 Page (5 x 7")   | \$40    | \$100    |
| 1/2 Page (7x10")    | \$60    |          |

**WAND One Year Subscriptions:** Enclose a check for \$10 payable to Womynspace.

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Mail correspondence to **Womynspace, P.O. Box 980601, Houston, TX 77098** or use the mail drop envelope at Inklings Bookshop in the bulletin board area behind the door.

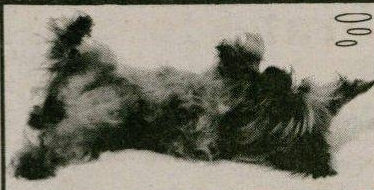


Photo by Michel Ferry

## Suzanne Anderson and Kelly Jean Go Marketing

Suzanne presented the topic, "Marketing Your Business, Your Organization, Your Self" at LiB. A stand up comic, Vickie opened for Suzanne and she was hilarious. Suzanne started off saying she is really enthusiastic about marketing and she asked Pokey what was it she said earlier and Pokey quipped "I get excited about mutual funds". Contrary to expectations, Suzanne made marketing a very entertaining subject. She presented slides of ads from out of state gay publications and the Houston Gay and Lesbian Yellow pages and she called up one guy she knew who had a two page ad with color and told him she loved his ad. The ad cost him \$6,000 and he said he made a five-fold return on his investment.

Suzanne discussed the ENTs of marketing, Commitment, Investment, Consistent, Confident, Patient, Convenient, Amazement and Measurement, writing on a flip chart with the LiB audience providing spell checking in the flesh.

Suzanne newest marketing idea is to give T-shirt to her clients who buy houses. People won't wear a T-shirt with her face on it, so she put a photo of herself in a skirt from the knees down with her little dog, Kelly Jean standing beside her. It's a precious photo. Suzanne concluded the meeting by presenting an ad she had made for a self-employed LiB member, Cookie Davenport. See Cookie's ad in this issue of the WAND.

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## RESOURCE GUIDE

Agora [Les/Gay community media liaison] 729-4267  
Alternative Broadcast Service [gay TV production facility] 522-5115  
Bar Association for Human Rights [Les/Gay Attys] 222-7002  
Calendar Girls 942-8888 or 523-4510  
Chain Gang [Gay Cycling Group] 863-1860  
Dignity/Houston [Les/Gay Catholics] 880-2872  
Dimensions (monthly mag) POB856 Lubbock, TX 79408 806-797-9647  
Fem TV [feminist program on the Public Access Channel] 755-7766  
First Time BBS 522-1173,522-1170  
Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos [GLHU] 880-GLHU  
Gay/Lesbian Switchboard: 529-3211  
GLOBAL [University of Houston Gay Les Bi Alliance] 743-5180  
Hate Crimes Hotline 529-9615  
Hazelwitch Productions [women's music and comedy] 521-3369  
Houston Area Gay & Les Engineers and Scientists[HAGLES] 480-2177  
Houston Area NOW 668-9008  
Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of Homosexuals [HATCH] 669-0452  
Houston Area Women's Center [HAWC] 528-2121  
Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus [HGLPC] 521-1000  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents 980-7995  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Week 529-6979  
Houston Gay Yellow Pages 621-0929  
Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth [HIPY] 942-9884  
Houston Outdoor Group [HOG] 526-7688  
Houston Pride Band 524-0218  
Just For Us [teens with Gay or Lesbian parents] 666-8260  
Lambda Center [AA Groups] 521-9772  
Lambda Rollerskating 933-5818  
Lesbian Health Initiative 869-6350  
Lesbians in Business [LiB] 529-0077  
Lesbians Over Age Fifty [LOAF] 661-1482  
KPFT 90.1 FM Les Gay Voices Thu 9-11pm After Hours Sat 12-3am 526-4000  
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection [MCCR] 861-9149  
Mishpachah Alizim [Gay and Lesbian Jews and friends] 748-7079  
Montrose Clinic [full women's examination 6pm-9:30pm Mon-Fri] 520-2000  
Montrose Counseling Center [MCC] 529-0037  
Montrose Ice Picks 629-1432  
Movie Club 395-2126  
OutSmart Houston's Gay and Lesbian Monthly Magazine 520-7237  
OutVote [register and motivate gays & lesbian, to vote] 522-9837  
P-FLAG [Parents, Friends, Families of Lesbians & Gays] 867-9020  
Pet Patrol [helps hospitalized HIV/AIDS pet owners] 522-1954  
Q-Patrol [Prevention of Hate Crimes in Montrose] 871-8519  
Rape Crisis Hotline 528-7273; 528-RAPE  
Rice Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association 523-0259  
The Rose [low cost mammograms] 668-2996  
Southern Country Houston [country western dance] 648-9340  
Southern Hospitality BBS 522-1515  
Team Houston [Gay Les sports competition/Gay Games 1998] 935-1060  
20 Something [social group ages 20-29 Les/Bi/Gay] 315-6786  
Women's Action Coalition Hotline: 867-9581  
Women's Information and Referral Exchange [WIRES] 528-2121  
Women's Group First Unitarian Church 529-8571  
Women's Wire BBS (free starter kit/diskette) 800-210-9999  
WAND (Womynspace Activity Networking Directory) 664-9215

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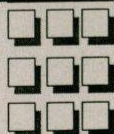
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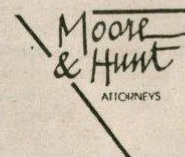
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Luke 9:48

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and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me.



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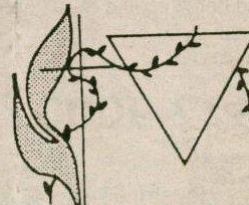
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We recognize ourselves to be a reconciling congregation within our Annual Conference and choose to officially associate ourselves with the Reconciling Congregation Movement within the United Methodist Church. We see this movement as a sign of hope and through this association offer our witness to other congregations within our denomination to foster the spirit of reconciliation and movement toward inclusiveness."





# THE WAND

Womynspace Activities/Networking Directory

*Vol. 6, No. 12*

*December*

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HAPPY SECOND BIRTHDAY, INKLINGS!

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

# THE BIRTH OF INKLINGS

In the 1970s, Houston's feminist bookstore was The Bookstore on Bissonnet. Then, in the 1980s, there were several gay or lesbian stores: Wilde & Stein Books, B.D. & Daughter, then Wit & Wisdom.

Then, in April, 1988, there were none.

Soon after, over lunch at Treebeard's Restaurant, long-time Houston activists Pokey Anderson and Annise Parker were lamenting the vacuum. They refused to believe that Houston's gay/lesbian/feminist community couldn't--or wouldn't--support a bookstore.

At the time, Pokey had been a legal secretary for nine years for one of the city's largest law firms; Annise was in her eighth year with Mosbacher Energy Company, an independent oil & gas company. They were looking for new challenges, and they tackled the idea of a bookstore head-on. Before it was reality, they were to fill five notebooks with notes, write a 40-page business plan, and compile an 650-page list of potential books to carry.

Annise and Pokey interviewed the people who had run the previous four bookstores in Houston to find out what had worked, and what hadn't. They visited other bookstores in the area. They received invaluable advice from Barbara Grier of Naiad Press, Carol Seajay of Feminist Bookstore News, and numerous others around the country. They questioned authors, wholesalers, publishers, and consumers.

They joined the American Booksellers Association, and contacted Houston's Small Business Development Council. They created maps of the targeted Montrose area, and compiled general and specific economic data. They met with an accountant and a lawyer. They set up a management plan, with Pokey to quit her downtown job soon after the store opened, while Annise would keep her same job.

The store needed a name. Pokey and Annise brainstormed, coming up with separate lists of any name they could think of. After crossing out dozens of names, eight survived.

They wrote these names on flashcards, snagged anyone they could, and asked them to rate the names, and comment on their reactions. You already know the winner: Inklings.

Pokey and Annise set up a budget. One advisor warned they would need a minimum of \$20,000 to start. Another advised not to bother without \$125,000 as a bare minimum. Within these rather broad parameters, a budget and cash flow projections were drawn up. Pokey and Annise put in equal amounts in the partnership. Additional amounts, in increments of \$1,000, were loaned by friends and lovers who believed in the project. In September, 1988, a bank account was opened, and Inklings began to establish credit relationships with suppliers. Commercial credit is like a lot of other things--you have to already have it to get it. Fortunately, Barbara Grier was willing to grant immediate credit, and two other companies Pokey had worked with as a music producer were willing to be references.

Inklings started placing tiny orders to get started, and first set books out at a table in front of Bacchus during a Womynspace garage sale. Initial response was quite positive, and this also was the beginning of a mutually rewarding relationship with Womynspace.

Meanwhile, Pokey and Annise had been scouring the chosen sector of Montrose for a place to rent since July. A well-known marketing analyst--who happened to be a lesbian--knew the target neighborhood like the back of her hand, and steered Inklings away from lackluster locations. Three places fell through before they finally found a site that was the right size, with parking, visibility, affordable, and with owners that wouldn't flinch at the words "feminist" or "gay and lesbian." One master's level psychologist, when told it would be a feminist bookstore, responded pertly, "Oh, that's wonderful! A feminine bookstore!" Pokey noted, "We occasionally wondered whether we'd been beamed back in time as we tried to explain this alien concept to Houston's property owners."

Finally, on November 15, Inklings signed a lease at 1846 Richmond, a building with a rather checkered past. It was then a flower shop, but for about 18 years before that it was Club Diablo, a place where, neighbors told us, anything went. The floor and bar area had been spatter-painted hot pink, gray and black. The walls had 18 mirrors. And, there were several spent bullets discovered in the mantel.

An opening date was set 18 days hence, and Hazelwitch's mailing list was borrowed to alert the town. A stalwart crew of volunteers and professionals set to work remodeling the entire downstairs. Pokey met with a lesbian interior designer and supervised the crews, even though she was still working her full-time job downtown. Annise had to leave town due a death in her family, but was back in time for the marathon book-shelving the night before opening day. Other stores, which could have viewed us as unwelcome competitors, welcomed Inklings with open arms: Lucia's Garden delivered a free counter (along with a continuing stream of good advice), and Lobo sent best wishes and flowers. But the customers' response was the best: Inklings was welcomed into the world by an enthusiastic crowd which swooped up 1/3 of the stock on the first day.

Now, celebrating the end of the first two years, Inklings can look back at all that has been learned, and hope that the existence of Inklings has made a difference in the lives of individuals and the community as a whole. Inklings looks forward to serving the community for many more years.

