

Hello I am Simone Wallace SMILE

A Heartfelt thank you all for being here. Many of you were with us in November, 1997 at our spectacular 25th

anniversary event ~~and saw~~ ^{Where we} heard an illustrious group of women who spoke in support of Sisterhood Bookstore.

~~One of them was Emily Levine who awed us with her brilliant humor. Imagine our excitement when she~~

~~approached us and offered to perform in a fundraising~~

~~event for us tonight.~~ Our fundraiser at the Skirball was

~~incredible~~ ^{wonderful}. Money raised at that event helped pay our

operating expenses for several months. Even though we

received a tremendous amount of publicity, we had ~~radio~~

interviews, newspaper articles; ~~We were on~~ ^{and} ~~international TV,~~ ^{exposure} our

sales did not improve; in fact they continued to decline

since their peak in 1992.

Last month we sent out a letter saying that without donors,

benefactors, buyers, investors, or ~~another~~ ^{some} type of miracle,

^{will} ~~we have~~ to close Sisterhood Bookstore at the end of July.

The response to our letter has been huge. We have

received an outpouring of concern and offers of help; from

Look around

The hyperpoets of the Rose Cafe, to the students at UCLA, to the Sisterhood Bkstre book clubs ; we have had ^{multidenominational}
newspaper articles, video documentaries, financial contributions, interested investors, and a lot of love.

Sisterhood Bookstore is at a critical juncture right now. Why are we, like so many independent bookstores having trouble surviving? Times have changed. Buying habits have changed. Our ways of getting information and forming community are different now.

We know that you love Sisterhood Bookstore and want Sisterhood Bookstore to continue. We believe that we still need community space that is feminist, that takes a stand. ^{intellectual comes from a specific political position} We all know that ~~girls~~ ^{GIRLS} in elementary schools today experience sexism that is every bit as disempowering to them as the sexism that we identified when we opened the store. .

We need space that is not corporate, not a big box, not

Sue

alienating, - a space that is progressive and warm, that is woman-and-lesbian-and gay friendly; that makes everyone of us feel welcome; that is multicultural, neither looksist, nor ageist, nor ~~any~~^{ANY} of the other annoying and oppressive isms that deeply affect the quality of our lives.

Our plan includes relocating to a beautiful new space with a parking lot and a community room with gallery space; and yes, even a coffee bar. We want to host performance ~~and~~ ^{and have} classes and workshops and a dynamic web site;; and we want to continue to collect all the important books and journals with all of the new ideas that continue to come from all of you, our finest thinkers.

we need to move Sisterhood Bookstore into the next decade keeping all of the most precious aspects of our history, at the same time as we answer the new cutting edge questions; we want Sisterhood Bookstore to be more than the treasured memory that it is for some of ~~you~~^{us}. we need to reminisce AND we need to be innovative.

We need financial support. All donations that we receive of any amount ~~are vital~~ help us in many ways, especially in our attempt to attract large donors who want to see that there is grassroots support to match whatever they give.

It has been an amazing 27 years; it has been an amazing past several weeks; i want to again appreciate all the continuous support you have shown to Sisterhood Bookstore;

AND

We want your input. Please join us here after the show for a few moments of discussion.

I would like to introduce my business partner, Adele Wallace.

[“reminiscenses rather than inovation is the trend as memoires and biographies of older that feminists pour from the presses.”]