LITERATURE

KORE PRESS

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Artistic Heroes are Coming in Hot on Persephone Speaks

We're Throwing House Parties and You're Invited

Kore Women Make Waves in Denver, Georgia, New Jersey, and Tucson

Artistic Heroism and Coming in Hot

Joanna Frueh's Reflections on Kore's New Play



Photo: joannafrueh.com

Excerpted from Persephone Speaks:

..The heat with which heroes blaze into us gives them the power to serve as activists in our lives. Artists can be such heroes...The artist as hero is a repeated, though often implicit, theme within art history. The controversial artist or art work--heroes do tend to be controversial--often deals with social problems, frequently reflecting rather than transforming them. In other words, we get reiterations of issues rather than offerings of solution. Some have responded to Coming in Hot as controversial, and on the blog for the play I read, "Controversy is a good thing." Our culture loves controversy and believes in its capacity to bring fortune, fame, or at least talk to a person, event, or work of art. Activism interests me far more than does controversy, which I see as a distraction, from something that either may or not be significant, both affective and effective. Controversy can become people's focus, whereas activism needs that

Read her full entry on the Kore Blog.

Coming in Hot Civil Discourse Tour



Vicki Brown & Jeanmarie Simpson performing this past weekend at Dr. Mary Jo Ghory's house.

Kore Press plans to travel the Tucson roads this fall with Coming in Hot: The Civil Discourse Tour, reaching local youth, young college students, Vets, and low-income neighborhoods. In order to make it happen, Kore friends are hosting house parties & salon performances around town in an effort to raise funds. Our goal is to reach \$5K by April 30th and we're well on our way after last weekend's salons hosted by Barbara Allen and Mary Jo Ghory. Thanks to the attendees and passionate new supporters of our

"The salon performance was profound and deeply moving, emotionally and intellectually. The breadth of the perspectives collectively is what gives the stories their power. It is profoundly political not in the usual partisan understanding, but in a deeply human sense...

- Linda Green, Associate Professor Dept. of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Help us get the show on the road! Want to get involved? Contact Maddie: maddie@korepress.org

The Hill-a-Thon Report



They did it! 12 walkers and 26 legs---including the 4 shown below---walked a total of 370 collective miles up and down Tumamoc Hill and 'A" Mountain (where dogs are allowed), raising \$2100 for Kore Press! Together they gained a total of 74,095 feet in elevation and climbed to the tops of these peaks 119 times. Thanks go to the ambitious feet of ${f TC}$ Tolbert and furry Isabella, Amy Rude, Lisa Bowden, Tamara Prime, Eve Rifkin, Team Narwhal from City High, L Monique Tippins, Karin Uhlich, Jeanmarie Simpson and Shannon Cain! And a big thanks to all our sponsors! See you on the trails getting ready for the next challenge!

Kore Women Make Waves

Tiphanie Yanique and Heather Cousins



Fiction writer, poet, and essayist Tiphani Yanique dazzles us again with a new collection of stories, How to Escape from a Leper Colony (Graywolf Press 2010). This is Yanique's first story collection and it's taking the book-world by storm,

snagging reviews in The Boston Globe, Boston.com, O, the Oprah Magazine, and Harper's Magazine. Yanique is a winner of the first Kore Press Fiction Prize for The Saving Work. Check out these dates from her website to find out when she's reading in a town near you or to buy the book. Photo credit: tiphanieyanique.com



<u>Heather Cousins</u>, debut author of <u>Something in</u> the Potato Room, selected by Patricia Smith, has a new review and podcast out.Cousins landed a large spread in Georgia newspaper The Walton Tribuneand now she has a 40 minute Podcast from Straylight Magazine. Read an excerpt from Something

in the Potato Room, listen to Heather discuss her first book of poetry, and leave a comment all right here!

Huzzah!

Amazing Women Abroad and at Home



Eve Ensler is best known for her fantastic talent as a playwright, but did you know that she's also a diligent women's activist? Check out this commentary she wrote for womens enews.org about what she deems the "most fragile time" for Afghanistan after her visit in 2003. It's interesting to compare her

observations with those of the women currently participating in the Afghan Women's Writing Project. How much has changed in the past seven years? Photo Credit: Womens E News.org (www.womensenews.org)



As our Grrls Literary Activism program grows to include mentoring and democracy studies, we find a kindred spirit in the national nonprofit **group Girls Incorporated.** Girls Inc. is "dedicated to inspiring all

girls to be strong, smart, and bold," and focuses on building educational programs, particularly for those in high-risk, undeserved areas. Their diverse set of programs "encourages girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges." Girls Inc. also prides themselves on social advocacy--not only do they speak out to policymakers and the media about issues facing young girls today, but they also teach girls how to advocate for themselves.

Kore Represents at the 2010 **Tucson Festival of Books**

And Makes New Friends



Stephanie Balzer and Becca Klaver (below).

The Tucson Festival of Books (March 13-14) was a whirlwind of excellent readings, good books, and beautiful weather. We were lucky to have Becca Klaver come from NYC and our own Steph Balzer signing new books. It was a thrill to connect with so many enthusiastic new supporters. A big thank you goes out to our attending authors, the volunteers, and everyone else who came by to chat, attended our readings, and bought a book (or three)! Let me also officially extend a welcome to all of our new newsletter members--we're so pleased to have you on board.

Did you miss all the excitement? Don't fret! The event is held annually and Kore will be there.

Kore Gals Travel to Denver for AWP



See the $\underline{\text{blog}}$ for a gallery of images and notes from the trail.

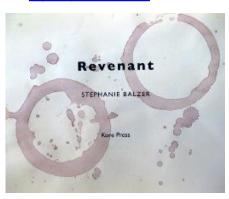
Kore Short Fiction Award Winner All Sorts of Hunger, a Leslie Marmon-Silko pick



Congratulations to **Heather Brittain** Bergstrom from Yuba City, CA! Her manuscript, All Sorts of Hunger, was chosen out of 250 submissions by readers and final judge Leslie Marmon-Silko as the winner for our

Award. the finalists are: "Return," by Sharon May and "Mr. Smith's Tip-Top Tale of Woe and Horror," by Nancy Holyoke.

Two New Titles from Kore Press Revenant by Stephanie Balzer.



"This book of poems is masterful and transporting in its form and in its orchestration of themes. Balzer's handling of the prose poem form transforms the prose "box" into a playground, a diorama. The reader enters the speaker's imagination--that of a woman who rents a house in a scraggly desert neighborhood, who is absorbed into the vacated rooms of the previous tenant who had killed someone before moving out..."--Barbara Cully; \$9, map-folded chapbook with hand-made coffee cup prints on each cover.

Frost Heaves by Teresa Stores



"Frost Heaves is powerful mediation on grief and reclamation. This is the story of Katherine Crossly, as she assesses her life after a half century of marriage. What happens when a woman realizes that her dreams were not deferred, but stifled before they are even fully imagined? Set against the

beautifully drawn landscapes of a small town in Maine, this is the story of a thaw, both literal and metaphorical. -- Tayari Jones, selected Frost Heaves for Kore's '09 Short Fiction Award. (see Teresa's blog here)

\$10, pamphlet-stitched chapbook with hand-sprayed ink clouds on each cover.

See our website to read more about our authors and to order books.

Save the Dates

Grrls' Reading & Retrospective Art Auction/Fundraiser

The Grrls Mentee/Mentor Reading & Retrospective, Friday May 14.

Kore Art Sale & May Flowers Fundraiser: **Mothers, Daughters & Creative Acts** of all kinds, Sunday May 30.

Keep both eyes open for more details on these May events. Questions? Contact us!

Writers' Opp

Home for Wayward Words: Fiction Workshop with former Grrls instructor Charlie Buck. Hosted by Casa Libre, Thursdays: May 6, 13, 20, & 27. 6-8:30 p.m. \$90 workshop fee. Get your registration form and read more details here.

A Taste of the Mile High City



Shannon Cain and Elline Lipkin at the Kore Table, Photo: Lauren Eggert-Crowe

For a full weekend recap, read this account by poet Heather Cousins.

I was impressed by the number of people who came by and expressed a love and interest in Kore Press. There were also many women who stopped who were not familiar with Kore and who, when I explained the Press's project of publishing women writers, stood up a little straighter, got a little glimmer in their eye, and said something to the effect of: This is so important, there needs to be more publisher's like this, for women's voices.

--Heather Cousins, Kore author Something in the Potato Room

I'm so incredibly grateful to our volunteers and authors; this was our most financially successful AWP to date. It was a great place to meet other writers (humbling as that is) and Denver is beautiful.

--Patti Hadad Kore Editorial Assistant

Good times at AWP, good times at the Kore book table! It was thrilling to see my recent release, Her Name is Juanita, nestled there among so many other gorgeous Kore publications, and to see the terrific works that other women are writing and Kore is producing. I was proud to have my book among them.

--Sally Ashton, Kore author Her Name is Juanita

This was the best AWP experience I've had. I loved seeing such a strong representation of small presses like Kore, Poor Claudia, Ugly Duckling, and Les Figues. AWP always leaves me inspired to write more and connect with other writers doing amazing, creative things in the world.

--Lauren Eggert-Crowe Blogger and former Kore intern

A BANG! For it's First Time Back Lot Arts Night Gala for Kore and Pan Left

BANG! was rganized by Jacqueline Tosline **Davis**, a Tucson artist, lover of the arts, reader, guitarist, and University of Arizona student of Cultural Anthropology, film, and Spanish.



For a first time event at Hotel Congress, Tucson, April 9th could not have been a better night for the premier of the BANG! Back Lot Arts Night Gala. 150 people filled the bustling lobby while happy-time regulars viewed from afar. The table cloths hugged snug, signs laid out, pens dispersed among the tables and so, the art auction was complete. Over the course of the night, a brilliant and diverse crowd (including Gabrielle Giffords) gathered to share and participate in the selling of most all of the 30 pieces of art, which brought in a smashing 25% of the revenue for the night.

As dusk turned to dark, a hearty crowd commenced as the screen was secured on the patio. Projector, lights and sound in check, films by UA students, Pan Lefters, and a BICAS member rolled for the next three hours. The films cycled three times until the last midnight straggler came in. The screenings were so popular in fact, that the Hi Co bands ended up with little to no crowd.

BANG! will be back in the Fall. I want to give a big thanks to every person who gave their time to make this event possible, by donating art, providing films, volunteering or simply supporting and donating. Thanks y'all.---Jacqueline

What a Deal for National Poetry Month

April, as we all know, is National Poetry Month and Kore Press wants to celebrate with you. For the rest of April we're offering a 25% discount on all poetry books OR a two-for-one: buy a book for yourself and we'll send one to a friend of your choosing for **free!** Browse all of our books at www.korepress.com and check out our newest releases, including Carolyn Forche's new broadside, "What Comes."



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