## Favorites old and new

What better time to start a good book than at this year's family Christmas get-together? You didn't really want to talk to Aunt Lucille anyway, and maybe you'll be able to raise someone's consciousness, if only your own!

While this list, compiled by Jim Hunger, Jay Brown and Joel Redon, is neither definitive nor exhaustive, it is a list of some favorites, old and new.

Men's Bodies, Men's Selves. Sam Julty. Dell Publishing Company, Inc. 1979.

The subtitle, The Complete Guide to the Health and Well-Being of Men's Bodies, Minds and Spirits, says it all. And the heading of the first section, "New Choices," adds an extra twist.

In his forward to Men's Bodies, Men's Selves, Julty says "... we are at a point in history when more and more men are realizing that our culture has reduced the broad path on which our lives should travel to a catwalk lined with rules and roles of approved masculine behavior."

Society and the Healthy Homosexual.

George Weinberg. Anchor, 1972. George Weinberg coined the word

"homophobia" and was an early supporter of the idea that homosexuality is neither aberration nor illness. His book is a critique, by a therapist, of the horrors that psychology and psychiatry have inflicted on gay people.

The Joy of Gay Sex. Dr. Charles Silverstein and Edmund White. Crown Publishing Co. 1978.

Even in the age of AIDS, The Joy of Gay Sex is still the best book on the subject. Its authors' attitude of caring and concern for others and ourselves has yet to be surpassed; we could do with a post—AIDS edition, though.

The Life to Come and Other Stories, by E.M. Forster. W.W. Norton & Company. 1972.

A collection of previously unpublished stories by one of the most respected novelists and critics of the twentieth century. Forster published no fiction between A Passage to India (1925) and his death fifty years later. This collection includes stories whose homosexual content deterred Forster from publishing them. The stories were written between 1903 and 1958 and represent every phase of Forster's career as a writer.

The Politics of Homosexuality. Toby Marotta. Houghton, Mifflin.

If you want to know, as a gay person, why you think the way you do, this book will help give an historical perspective. A political scientist, Marotta relates the full impact of gay and lesbian organizations, from the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis to the Gay Activists Alliance and beyond.

Josephine Herbst: The Story She Could Not Tell. Elinor Langer. Warner Books. 1984.

Portlander Elinor Langer's biography of a 1930s radical feminist was the best of the year. Herbst was an extraordinary woman in an extraordinary time.

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Family Dancing. David Leavitt. Alfred A. Knopf. 1984.

This collection of stories comes form the perspective of a new generation that recognizes the existence of gays as a valid part of the natural order. Leavitt's stories have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Harper's*, as well as in the 1984 O. Henry *Prize Stories*.

Backtrack. Joseph Hansen. Penguin. 1983.

Feisty Alan Tarr sets out to attend his father's funeral but finds adventure. He survives a car crash, breaks both legs, and ends up with his late father's boyfriend.

Job's Year. Joseph Hansen. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 1984.

A year of adversity in the life of a thoroughly good man who happens to be gay. Surviving a year of hard times, Hansen's hero emerges with integrity intact.

Joseph Hansen is also author of a series of mystery novels about gay Los Angeles detective David Brandstetter.

Cities of the Red Night. William S. Burroughs. Holt, Rinehart and Winston. 1981.

Cities is Burrough's apocalyptic vision of plague and pleasure, often to the accompaniment of hangings.

Parallel Lives. Peter Burton. GMP publishers, Inc. 1985.

This memoir surveys twenty years of rapid change in the gay world. Parallel Lives covers many themes, including: mods clubs of the 1960s; a teenage literary apprenticeship with Robin Maugham; and touring with Rod Stewart.

Kiss of the Spider Woman. Manuel Puig. Vintage. 1978.

Puig weaves a fantasy tale within a grim reality, and portrays the influence of a Latin American dictatorship on the already desolate life of a Latin gay.

Nocturnes for the King of Naples. Edmund White, Penguin.

White's vividly metaphoric Noctumes is a circuitously plotted elegy for a lost lover.

A Boy's Own Story. Edmund White. E.P. Dutton. 1982.

Susan Sontag has said of White's tale of growing up gay, "This novel about America and about a 'homosexual fate' is a large and happy accomplishment."

Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality. John Boswell. University of Chicago Press. 1980.

Young award-winning Yale Historian John Boswell examines western civilization's attitude toward homosexuality in particular and minorities in general in this scholarly but

readable work.

Quiet Fire: Memoirs of Older Gay Men. Keith Vacha (ed. by Cassie Damewood). The Crossing Press. 1985.

Vacha is a social services administrator to the elderly on the West Coast. Quiet Fire contains in-depth interviews with older gay men from all walks of life who recall both bad and good times.

Are You Still My Mother? Are You Still My Family? Gloria Guss Back. Warner Books. 1985.

A guide for parents of gays: how to handle feelings, how to deal with the world, and how to accept the gay child.

The Sexual Outlaw. John Rechy. Dell. 1977. In this L.A. hustler docudrama, Rechy highlights the outlaw status of gays in America in a raunchy, no-nonsense style.

Aphrodisiac, A Collection of Short Fiction from Christopher Street. Perigee. 1980.

Some of the best gay and lesbian writers, past and present, are represented in this collection from America's mainline gay magazine. Despite its inflammatory title, *Aphrodisiac* is a literate sampling of American lesbian and gay writing.

Several authors are worth mentioning for their works in general. Mary Renault's series on Alexander the Great, including: The King Must Die, The Mask of Apollo, The Persian Boy, and The Praise Singer, is worthwhile for its historical authenticity as well as its natural portrayal of an ancient homoerotic relationship.

Armistead Maupin's Tales of The City, etc., take a tragi-comic look at the Guppie environment. Originally serialized in the San Francisco Chronicle, Maupin's Mouse adventures have become a major industry.

## Winter Reading List

by Lee Lynch

Ah, another winter along the Oregon Trail. Woodstove fat with heat, freezer stuffed with fall applesauce, shelves full of new preserves eager to be spread on hot bread cooked in a cozy kitchen. The cats watch devotedly as I make catnip mice for holiday gifts, the dog rolls delightedly in the first snowfall. And every chance I get, I settle in with a cuppa Red Zinger and a book.

It's been a good reading year for me and Just Out's editors have asked me to share my harvest. A Woman's Place in Portland, Mother Kali's in Eugene and Bloomsbury Books in Ashland are all gearing up to supply you with your stack of books — and ideas for Solstice, Hanukkah and Christmas presents.

Another Mother Tongue, Judy Grahn. 1985. Beacon. A classic, eye-opening book of riches. Why is purple the gay color? Why do we recognize one another by our pinky rings? What is a ceremonial dyke?

Sex Variant Women in Literature. Jeannette Foster. 1985. Naiad Press. \$8.95. The late author devoted her life to this volume. A highly readable survey of lesbian characters in world literature.

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, Jeannette Winterson. 1985. Pandora. \$8.95. A laughaloud story of a young dyke growing up in a fundamentalist Christian home. Loveable eccentric characters.

A Hot-eyed Moderate; The Young in One Another's Arms; Desert of the Heart (see the movie!). Jane Rule. 1985. Naiad Press. \$7.95. A collection of insightful fiction by our best novelist and my two favorites of her novels, all re-released in one year!