Rescuing Our Words: Second-Hand Books on Difference and Activism

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Bibliography List


Abramovitz looks at the gendered history of social welfare policy. This book was bought at St. Vincent de Paul.


Mother and daughter look at their experiences as second and third wave feminists (respectively) and the differences and similarities between the two eras.


This book is a key book of third wave feminism. It was gifted to me by a friend on my 19th birthday and was the start of my collection.


The pride and joy of my collection, this is the first commercial printing of this book which explains women’s bodies to women. My ultimate goal is to own all eight editions of the book and the 193 page booklet that was the precursor to this book. This edition came from the Salvation Army.


The second commercial printing of this book. This copy came from Goodwill.


The fourth commercial printing of this book. This book came from St. Vincent de Paul.

The fifth commercial printing of this book. This book came from a thrift store, but which one is now unknown.


This first edition copy is a historical narrative about the life of a woman from 1820 to 1840 and her experiences as a slave. It was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


Brownmiller chronicles her experience in the feminist movement starting with 1968. She includes stories about her actions and opinion and interviews with others struggling for equality alongside her. This book was purchased at St. Vincent de Paul

Burton, Gabrielle. I’m running away from home, but I’m not allowed to cross the street: A Primer on Women’s Liberation. Know, Inc. Pittsburgh, PA. 1973.

First published in 1972, this book uses words and illustrations to take a humorous look at gender roles, especially at home. This book has notations reading “DISCARD” inside the front and back cover. This was purchased from the Salvation Army.


This book is still often used to discuss theories of radical feminism. It examines women’s history of oppression and is a call to action in a theoretic framework. This book was bought at Goodwill.


This is a collection of essays from famous African Americans about their experience growing up as African American children. Like many other books, this one became mine when given to me by an acquaintance when she cleaned out her book collection.


DeParle follows the lives of three women who are affected by national and state changes to welfare legislation. He tracks what these changes do to the poor and
also looks at the cross sections of class and race. This book came from a thrift store but I am not sure which one.


Drinnon focuses on the history of colonization and how colonization of the Americas and how that parallels that of Americas colonization of other countries. This book came from a used book sale to benefit the Nokomis Learning Center in Okemos.


Due explores the experiences and challenges of gay and lesbian teenagers. This book was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


This is a collection of writings from gays and lesbians and their parents about the coming out experience and providing answers to common questions that parents have. This book has been a great help to many families throughout its three editions. It was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


A must read on feminism from the 1980’s and 1990’s. Faludi clarifies myths that feminism has hurt women and looks at the media’s role in both perpetuating this myth and limiting women’s lives. This book came from St. Vincent de Paul.


As president of Planned Parenthood Federation of American, Feldt strives to education women about how their rights are being taken away and the mindset of the people doing so. This book is one of the few in the collection I’ve bought new from a bookstore.


Young women express their views about feminism and the state of women in the world. This book was a gift to me for my 16th birthday that I passed along to someone else then bought another copy at St. Vincent de Paul.

Freedman looks how feminists ideas have changed since their conception and examines why the women’s movement has survived through the decades. This book was a gift from a friend.


Perhaps the most well known book from second wave feminism, The Feminine Mystique explained the feelings of many women who were unhappy with their lives but unable to express their problems. This copy is the first Dell paperback edition and notes on the cover that in 1964 it cost 75 cents. It was purchased at Goodwill.


This book explores the history of black women in American and examines the contributions they have made to history. This book was given to me by an acquaintance who was cleaning out her book collection. Before it came to her, it was discarded by the Capital Area District Library.


This classic story, originally published in 1892, is now seen as a feminist work by many scholars. In the title story, Perkins tells the story of a woman (presumably her) who has a mental breakdown after the birth of her child. This book was purchased online from a used book store.


Ten women explore their work in the defense industry during WWII. They discuss, among other things, how they did not work out of patriotism, but for economic reasons. This book was purchased from the Salvation Army.


This book chronicles the history of black education and gives suggestions on how to deal with the future of education that the author sees as still separate but not equal. This book was gifted to me by an acquaintance that had read it and knew I would enjoy it.

Highwater explores the history of North American tribal people and contrasts Western thought and culture with that of Native Americans. It was purchased from a used book sale to benefit the Nokomis Learning Center.


These authors look at two parent families who manage two careers and the effect this has on home life. The book came from the Volunteers of America.


This book looks at the relationship built in illness; specifically the role of lesbians in taking care of gay men with AIDS as Hoffman chronicles her experience taking care of a dying friend. This book was purchased from an unknown online book seller.


This book describes women who lived lives that are seen as extraordinary for women and includes famous women from history and women who are not as well known. It was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


In this writing, Hooks describes the basic beliefs of feminism to make it accessible for every person. It goes through different topics such as marriage and work and explains feminist viewpoints on them. It came from St. Vincent de Paul and includes the first owners name on the inside of the front cover.


This is a collection of essays that addresses a wide rage of topics having to do with racism faced by African Americans and how the anger felt by those who are oppressed can be used constructively. This book came from an acquaintance who gave it to me when she cleaned out her personal book collection.

This is a collection of essays focusing on how the world currently and historically lacks in understanding of and attention to minority groups; specifically black women. This book was bought at Goodwill.


This book explores the social movements of the 1960’s and the effect they had on American Society. This book was given to me by an acquaintance when she cleaned out her book collection.


This book takes a look at the events of the 1960’s and how American culture changed drastically in a decade. This book also contains a timeline of the important events of the 1960’s for use as a quick reference. It was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


This book looks at what groups are the victims of violence and what violence is made public by the media and what violence is ignored. This book was given to me by an acquaintance when she cleaned out her book collection.


The authors of this book look at the unconventional lifestyles of groups that are seen as being religious fanatics. This book was a gift from a family member.


A collection of writing from people with disability that is poignant to all parents, but especially those with children of disability. This offers advice on how to help people with disabilities through all points of their life and also is a useful guide to helping anyone who strives of acceptance and equal treatment of others. This book was bought from an online used book seller.

This book is similar to Women Together except about England. It details women’s suffrage efforts in Britain. I ordered it from an online used book seller after I saw someone else get to it before me at a thrift store.


MacLeod follows groups of gang members with aspirations for better who find out that race and economic status limits their possibilities of success. This book was bought at the Salvation Army.


Inspired by the birth of her daughter, Mann looks to understand what happens to girls throughout childhood to derail them from success. She looks at history, current research, and current culture to find out about the experience of growing up female.


A history of black America since 1945, this book provides insight into the work of black Americans to establish their rights socially and legally and the reaction of whites to this process.


Meyer looks at the history of protest and the reasons why people protest. This book was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


As the title suggests, this is a collection of writings and lectures by Gertrude Stein, one of the early 20th century’s most prominent feminist authors. This book was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.


This book is a look at changes and development in Detroit’s African American Community during the onset of the civil rights movement. This book was bought from an online used book seller.

Another popular book from second wave feminism, the book gathers essays from all important actors in the movement and organizes them around central themes such as religion, consciousness raising, and protest. This book was gifted to me from Dr. Penny Gardner, an MSU professor, who went to MSU surplus where all the books from MSU’s now dismantled women’s studies department were sent. Dr. Gardner saved what she could, and passed along this copy to me since she already owned one.


In this work, award winning author Morrison critiques literature and how it is dependent on the black population but normally does not give them the credit they deserve or acknowledge their experience. This book came from St. Vincent de Paul.


Page explores issues of the Pro-choice movement beyond abortion from sex education to who has access to medical care during pregnancy. This book was one of the earlier ones in my collection and was bought from St. Vincent de Paul as a used book shortly after its publication date.


Another one of my favorite books, this contains letters, pictures, flyers, documents and lectures from the history of the women’s movement. It was found by my partner at a book recycling event to benefit the Meridian Township recycling program in Okemos and subsequently gifted to me.


Pattillo-McCoy focuses on how black middle class families, unlike their white counterparts, still live in inner-city neighborhoods with low income black residents. By doing this, they still face many of the same challenges and are rarely able to be as successful as their white peers. This book was purchased at St. Vincent de Paul.

Research about how gender is constructed throughout different scholarly disciplines. This book was purchased from the Salvation Army.


This is an anthology of stories from women who dared to see the world over the past 300 years. Robinson is one of few authors who write about women travelers, a genre of writing normally dominated by men’s experiences. This book was bought at Salvation Army.


This book compiles the stories of minority teenagers as they describe the pressure they feel and the stereotypes they are faced with. This book came from Goodwill.


A collection of works by black women writers exploring different experiences of their lives. This book was a gift from an acquaintance who was cleaning out her book collection.


Shipler examines the lives of people who despite their hard work can not achieve success and often are on the verge of going into a downward spiral. Consisting of interviews with many such people, this book examines the reality many Americans face daily. This book was purchased at Volunteers of America.


This is a biography about a mother and son’s journey in understanding and acceptance. Christopher confirmed as an adult what his mother had always expected: that he is gay. They tell of their lives before and after that revelation, both separately and with as a family. This book was purchased from St. Vincent de Paul.

This is a first edition copy of Steinmen’s first collection of essays about the lives of women. This book was purchased at Goodwill.


A look at the changes in Detroit coming out of WWII when white soldiers returned home, African American workers lost their jobs, and suburbanization was starting. This book was bought from an online used book seller.


This book follows the life of the author from a young child to adult and watches him struggle with autism and find the extraordinary abilities he does have. He finds acceptance in his family, religion, and community. Also, this book looks at sexuality and disability; something that is normally ignored by each individual community. I bought this book at Goodwill.


A look at the lives of African Americans and the discrimination they face. This book was bought from an online used book seller.


This is an autobiographical account of Walker’s life as a child of mixed race who faces many different stereotypes, opinions, and experiences growing up across America with divorced parents. It was obtained from the Salvation Army.


Written by the lawyer who won Roe vs. Wade, this book chronicles that experience while calling activists to action to keep defending this decision. This book came from St. Vincent de Paul.


Whitaker describes the history of three centuries of treatment of schizophrenics by both science and medical industries. It is of unquestionable thrift store origin.

Divided Sisters follows the relationships between black and white women from childhood through adult activism to help try to explain the division between the two groups. It was given to me from an acquaintance who knew I would like. As the sticker on the front shows, she purchased it from a garage sale.


Wolf explores how modern images of womanhood are constructed and exploited throughout the media and popular culture. This book came from St. Vincent de Paul.


First published in 1792, this book was one of the very first examples of feminist writing. She claims in her writing that all events of women’s lives are connected and reforming this system would be reforming all systems. This book was purchased at St. Vincent de Paul.