



# LAUGHING BEAR NEWSLETTER 99

August 1997; edited by Tom Person; Copyright © 1997 by Laughing Bear Press; ISSN 1056-0327; Estab. 1976  
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<http://members.aol.com/laughingbr>; \$12/12 issues, \$14/Canada, £12/UK & Eire, \$22/other

## The Surviving Small Press: Organizations Directory

The directory of publisher organizations was hopefully going to be completed by now, but I got sidetracked with my wedding. Also response to the project has been slow coming.

I still think this can be a valuable project, but I need your help to pull it off.

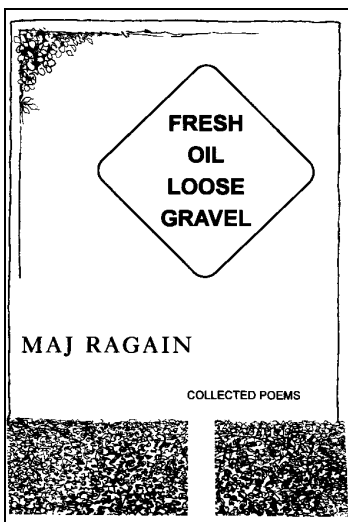
To help things along so we can have a directory put together before the end of the year, I am enclosing an organization survey form with this edition of the newsletter.

Please pass copies of it along to any organizations you belong to. Remember, these can be groups of any size. Small local groups are just as important as big ones, perhaps more so since they can be harder for new publishers to find.

The directory will be sent to all *Laughing Bear* subscribers, and it will be made available to members of the listed organizations and anyone else who wants a copy.

I have a couple dozen organizations on the list already, but don't assume I know of the same ones you do. We should be able to list 100 at least.

The deadline for information coming in is November 1, so it can go out with the December newsletter.



## Fresh Oil, Loose Gravel

by Maj Ragain  
Burning Press, PO Box 585,  
Lakewood, OH 44107; 132 pp,  
perfect, 6 x 9, \$10.00

Major Ragain's poetry weaves images and memories in intricate patterns. They start simply, spin off at right angles, baffle, then pull back to reveal the picture and you go, "Ah".

*Fresh Oil, Loose Gravel* deals much of the time with a hometown in the Midwest, characters who lived there, the poet's childhood, and the loss of his father.

Some poems are about the familiar, some are like dreams. All are relentlessly imagistic, pulling at edges of the brain that seldom get exercised in daylight. This is a book to get lost in.

## The Gift Outright

by M.L. Liebler and the Magic Poetry Band  
Schoolkids' Records, 523 E  
Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48104;  
compact disc, \$12.95

Poetry and music mixed usually sounds like a poetry reading with a soundtrack or instrumental music with garbled vocal percussion.



*The Gift Outright* just rocks. Liebler and his band are an integrated unit of musicians who know each others' moves. What comes out is a blend of jazz, blues, rock, and Beat.

Liebler is a talented vocalist, and with his collaborator, drummer, Bill "Blank" Boyer, he's been performing for 10 years. Originally they got together to participate in a benefit concert for the homeless.

*The Gift Outright* is a thoughtful, passionate collection of poetry as well. The CD's liner notes contain the text of all 14 poems.

A thorough joy.

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## **The Messengers A True Story of Angelic Presence and the Return to the Age of Miracles**

by Julia Ingram and G.W. Hardin

Skywin, P.O. Box 2222, Lake Oswego, OR 97035; 344 pp, perfect, 6 x 9, \$16.00

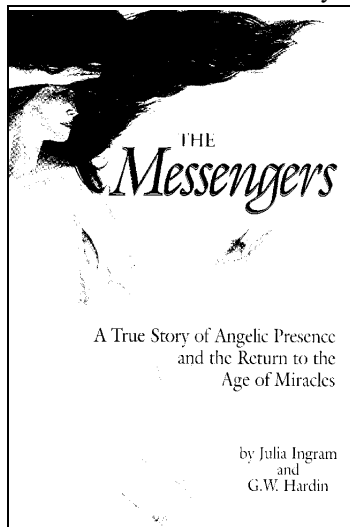
This is the true story of Nick Bunick, a businessman who believes he is the Apostle Paul reincarnated.

The first half of the book is an account of Bunick's discovery, how he dealt with it, and the impact on his personal and professional life.

The second half consists of biblical stories that came out during sessions with a regression therapist.

Whether you believe in angels and reincarnation or not, *The Messengers* is fascinating and reads like a well-paced mystery.

From the standpoint of small press, this book can be inspirational in another way. It sold over 20,000 copies in three weeks, and was picked up by Pocket Books and released as a hardback in July.



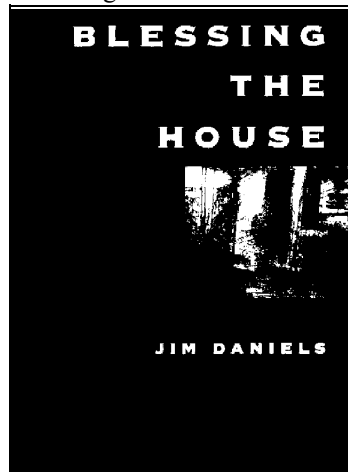
## **Blessing the House**

by Jim Daniels

University of Pittsburgh Press; order from CUP Services, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851; 120 pp, perfect, 6 x 9, \$12.95 + \$3.50 p&h

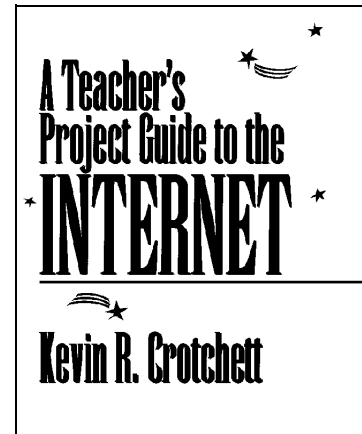
Jim Daniels' poetry tells stories. Tells them in such a way that they lock into the subconscious, making you think they're yours.

He writes about houses, growing up in them, and leaving them. Growing up Catholic, both fantasizing about and fearing the nuns who rule the world. Living with violence in the city, growing old, lost loves and the ones who hang around.



*Blessing the House* is all about love, both having and lacking it. Over the period of a life we experience cruelty and joy of love and sometimes the difference is subtle.

Jim Daniels is a storyteller. He can mesmerize with the tragedy, humor, and irony of the characters' plight. He can make you care. But he's also a poet whose writing flows so smoothly it goes unnoticed. Which is what great writing does. It speaks directly to the soul.



## **A Teacher's Project Guide to the Internet**

by Kevin R. Crotchett  
Heinemann, 361 Hanover St.,  
Portsmouth, NH 03801-3912;  
188 pp, perfect, 7½ x 9¼,  
\$26.50 with diskette

The internet has become a part of daily life. It may be a luxury today for a child to have access to e-mail and the web, but by the time they grow up those things will be facts of everyday life.

It is imperative that children learn about the internet and what it has to offer, and to point them toward using the internet productively.

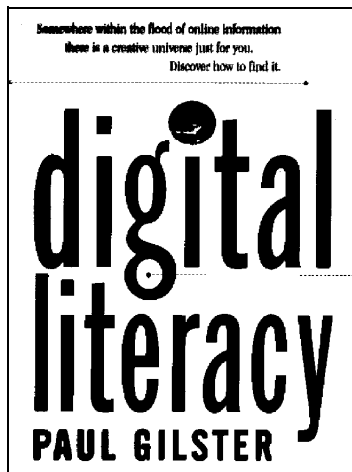
The challenge for teachers is that this is new technology and they've probably had less exposure to it than some of their students.

This guide provides everything a teacher needs to prepare a meaningful lesson plan for exploring the possibilities of the internet.

The disk contains a sample website based on projects in the book. With it, even a class that doesn't have internet access can surf the site. All they need is a computer with browser software.

There's even a list of sites that offer lesson plans to use the internet as a teaching tool with most any subject.

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## Digital Literacy

by Paul Gilster

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, New York; 288 pp, cloth, 5¾ x 8¾, \$22.95

This isn't a small press book, but occasionally something useful comes along that's worth mentioning.

*Digital Literacy* doesn't tell how to get around the internet or build a web site. It teaches you to think in a new way necessary to take full advantage of the range of information and services available online.

It's hard for people who've grown up with one-way information sources like TV, radio, and books to conceive of what is possible on the internet.

They tend to overestimate the internet's capabilities and underestimate them at the same time, because they expect it to work like media they are familiar with.

The fact is the internet is a blinding maze, but if you know how to approach it, you can find anything.

*Digital Literacy* explains the internet in a thorough, scholarly, but approachable manner. This is a vital book if you really want to know how the internet works.

## Announcements

- **PMA** has a new address (at least it's more recent than the one I've been using): Publishes Marketing Assoc., 627 Aviation Way, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

- **Author-Publisher Network**, the British publishers group, has a new web site for writers and book and magazine publishers: [www.author.co.uk](http://www.author.co.uk). You can buy a web page there for £15 (about \$25US) to promote your books or services. Includes a graphic, 50-100 words of text, and links to other places on the site. Also includes a direct sales link to the Internet Bookshop where surfers can buy the books.

- **Rosebud** (Roderick Clark, ed.; P.O. Box 459, Cambridge, WI 53523) is a big, beautifully produced literary magazine. Uses fiction and poetry. Send SASE for guidelines.

- **Sidney P. Bloomberg** (735 Taylor St., Ste. 306, San Francisco, CA 94108-3809) provides marketing and other services for small press publishers. Web site at [www.blsinc.com/partners/bloomberg/bloomberg.htm](http://www.blsinc.com/partners/bloomberg/bloomberg.htm).

- **A New Approach to Human Psychology** by Ron Dultz (Ron Dultz Publishing, PO Box 370985, Reseda, CA 91337; \$10) is a new book that suggests we look to an individual's self-understanding and compassion for an understanding of their actions, instead of just their past experiences and the environment in which they were nurtured.

- **Lost & Found Times** (John M. Bennett, ed.; 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214; \$25/5 issues). Experimental, DADA, and surreal poetry and artwork.

- **Bay Area Independent Publishers Association** (PO Box E, Corte Madera, CA 94976) is the new name for Marin Small Publishers Organization. Visit them on the web at [www.baipa.org](http://www.baipa.org).

- **Association of Little Presses** in London has a web site at [www.melloworld.com/alp](http://www.melloworld.com/alp). The site features an online version of their newsletter, event listings, and links to members' web pages.

- **London Review of Books** (28-30 Little Russell St., London WC1A 2HN England) offers inexpensive advertising in its Book Notes section, which is specially designed for small publishers. For under \$150 you can place an ad with book cover, even less per title for two or more titles and/or multiple insertions.

- **Phillip J. Pirages** (PO Box 504, 2205 Nut Tree Ln., McMinnville, OR 97128; 800-962-6666) is a wonderful mail order rare book dealer.

- **Directory of Literary Magazines 1997-1998** (Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, 154 Christopher St., Ste. 3C, New York, NY 10014-2839; \$12.95) lists over 600 US and foreign literary magazines.

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