

Left Bank interview cont.

abolitionist projects, stop the sweeps, mutual aid projects (shout out to free food Wednesdays at Cal Anderson!), and many others I'm probably not remembering off the top of my head or don't yet know about. We've also hosted benefit shows to raise funds for various causes (the person reading this probably found out about a couple from reading Sabotage Noise), and hold author events and open mic nights at the store. The crew at left bank is always busy outside of their work stocking shelves to take part in all of these projects, and are more than willing to introduce these projects to others who also show a genuine interest in building and supporting local community.

One thing we've seen that sets Left Bank apart from most bookstores is its long-running support for incarcerated readers. Can you tell us a little about this important work?

Books to prisoners (BTP) began as a project of Left Bank Books around the same time of its founding in the 1970's (you can read more about that on the website bookstoprisoners.net). While prisons are usually outfitted with libraries for prisoners to use, many of them are underfunded or lack access to the same reading materials that many of us take for granted. BTP is meant to fill that gap for prisoners by sending all sorts of reading materials, though there are certainly barriers to getting prisoners the things they want to read.

The requirements for books vary greatly from state to state, but Left Bank (the physical store) does offer a selection of books available for people to buy and donate to BTP, and we're always trying to keep that selection stocked with titles that fit the criteria to allow them to get to prisoners who request them. We also usually have a cart in front of the shop full of books people can buy for \$1 that help pay for postage to help BTP.

I highly recommend reading the website for more information about the project and to also read up more about the ever increasing censorship in prisons. There's also links to lists of requirements for book donations if you're interested in sending something to a prisoner that we might not carry in the store!

What advice would you have for people looking to start a project inspired by Left Bank?

Communicate. While you can, theoretically, "do whatever you want forever," you need to be able to communicate your intentions to the rest of your group/collective to avoid any potential issues that might arise before an action is carried out. That is, if you want your project to remain operational in the long run.

Since Left Bank is "worker controlled," all the behind-the-scenes "business" responsibilities are placed on the collective members. This includes ordering books, pay-roll, business licensing and taxes, all that annoying shit. If someone in the collective just decided to start doing one of their responsibilities differently or not doing it at all and didn't inform others, it would have a major impact on the ways the other collective members are able to carry out their responsibilities. Effective communication is a way to keep the project going as long as it needs to.

Where can people find y'all, digitally and in-real-life?

You can check out the store's website at leftbankbooks.com or, if you use social media, Instagram @leftbankbookcollective. The physical store is located in Pike Place Market, near the corner of Pike st. and 1st ave, but we also table at various book fairs and events that occur around the Salish Sea.

You can find the people that make up Left Bank out and about a Seattle, most likely dumpster diving.



**SEE INSIDE: Rad Benefit Shows + More
From All 'Round the Sound**

LEFT BANK BOOKS A 50TH ANNIVERSARY Q+A

Sabotage Noise spoke with the lovely folks of Left Bank Books, a rad Seattle bookstore:

Left Bank Books just had its 50th Anniversary! Could you share a quick story or two from that long history that gives people a sense of why the store is so (in)famous?

The Left Bank Archive actually made a really cool zine about the history of the store if you're interested in a more in-depth history!

Basically, Left Bank was an anarchist offshoot of a marxist-socialist bookstore called the Red and Black Bookstore during the cold war, so already it would have been considered "infamous" by the state and put under direct surveillance due to its involvement with anarchist and other radical movements at the time. However, Left Bank has been one of only a handful of projects that has continuously been distributing anarchist and radical literature since its inception, with many former collective members eventually branching off into their own radical literature projects.

Again, check out the zine made by the Left Bank Archive if you get a chance! It's much better than I am at explaining what makes the store so famous.

Can you give us a few quick book recs that exemplify the type of books Left Bank specializes in?

We might not carry it anymore (the distro we got it from closed down), but Desert by anonymous was one of the books (essays?) that introduced me to anarchist thought, along with Expect Resistance by Crimethinc. We have plenty more amazing books, but these were the first ones I found on the shelves there before I started volunteering that really continued bringing me into the store and influenced me to take a bigger part in mutual aid and organizing within my community.

How do y'all support building local community outside selling or donating books?

A lot of us take part in various projects outside of the store, such as

Cont. on back



RAD SHOWS + BENEFITS

OLYMPIA

The Mortuary

📷 @olymortuary

EVERY Thursday 6-8pm - People's Cafe Open Mic free/
donation coffee + tea by Wobbly Cup Cooperative Cafe~~

March 15 7-11pm - Jellyfish Method Show

March 22 8pm-2am - Spring Equinox Rave

April 1 6pm-12am - Fugitive Bubble / Woodstock '99

April 13 5-11pm - Catastrophic Cabaret: Blazed Away

SEATTLE

Left Bank Books

📷 @leftbankbookscollective

(92 Pike St)

EVERY 1st Thursday 7:30-11pm - Open Mic (Mar 7, Apr 4) ~~

EVERY Last Thursday - VOLTA: A QTBIPOC Open Mic (Mar
28, Apr 25)~~

March 30 - Benefit Show lineup TBA ~~

Pipsqueak

📷 @pipsqueak.seattle

(173 16th Ave)

EVERY 1st Sunday 3-5pm - Prisoner Letter Writing ~~

EVERY 2nd Sunday - Queer Writers Meetup ~~ (March 10,

Apr 13 and beyond 4:30-6:30pm)

EVERY Wednesday 6-9pm - Queer Art Home ~~

March 18 6-8pm - Dandelion weaving skillshare ~~

March 25 6-8pm - Queer Song Share

Casa del Xolo

📷 @casadelxolo

(3418 Fremont Ave N, in Lazy Cow Bakery)

March 20 7pm - Benefit ft. Telescope Club, OK Bucko,
Bazaar, Tino **

Call for Autonomous Disruption of the Aerospace
and Defense Supplier Summit

March 12-14 - see pugetsoundanarchists.org for more info

WANT TO LIST YOUR COOL SHOW OR BENEFIT
EVENT FOR MUTUAL AID - LABOR SOLIDARITY
- PRISONER SUPPORT - GENERAL ANARCHY?

CONTACT **SABOTAGE NOISE PRODUCTIONS!**

EMAIL: sabotagenoiseproductions@proton.me

📷 @sabotagenoiseproductions

SABOTAGE X NOISE X PRODUCTIONS



Kitsap County-Based Mutual Aid Benefit Show Booking



BREMERTON

ANNUAL 5/4/24

KITSAP BREMERTON

ANARCHIST
BOOK FAIR

MUSIC PATCHES
TALKS FILMS
ART BOOKS
BUTTONS
STICKERS
ZINES
& MORE!!



masks required and provided
kitsapbookfair.noblogs.org

ABERDEEN

SAVE THE DATE!!

May 1: May Day on the
Harbor

More info coming @

sabotmedia.noblogs.org

TACOMA

The Gravel Pit

📷 @gravelpittacoma

Mar 23 6-10pm - Gravel Pit

Open Mic ft. Class A
Misdemeanor**

Mar 9 7pm - Gravel Pit Prom
to celebrate Shane +
Shannon's 30th Bdays! **

Solidarity Center
(1220 S 23rd St)

Patreon.com/

HilltopSolidarityCenter

Bi-weekly - Feed the People
w/ Black Panther Party~~

KEY

!! = SNP Hosted

** = NOTAFLOP

~~ - Free Entry