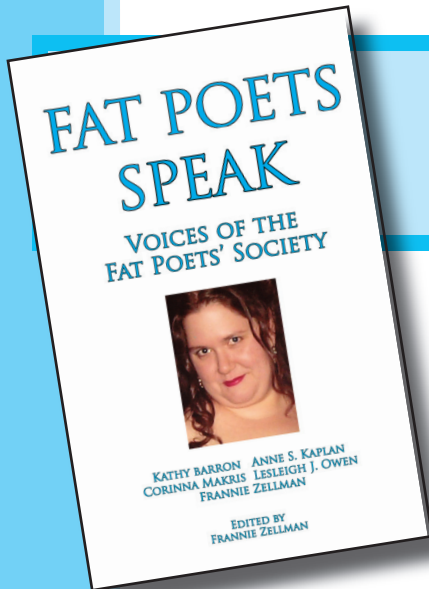


An Excerpt from



FAT POETS SPEAK

VOICES OF THE FAT POETS' SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION

There are now numerous blogs devoted to the idea that fat people should not only accept themselves, but liberate themselves from thin supremacy, the idea that thin people are somehow better and deserve to rule over fat people.

But there are still very few places on the Net or in real life where fat people can write and share poetry that speaks to their lives and concerns and wishes. Partly with this in mind, NAAFA—the National Association to Advance

Fat Acceptance—held the first workshop devoted to “Fat Poetry” at its yearly convention in July 2006. Those who participated were made members of the Fat Poets’ Society (FPS).

It is difficult for me even to try to explain how liberating and exhilarating it was to talk with poets about writing poetry that spoke to the issues and concerns we have as fat people in a thin-centric society. But it was twice as exhilarating to write with them as we all looked within ourselves and around and about to produce poems that spoke to our fat selves.

I have written poetry since the age of six, but somehow felt that I was writing in a dream before I realized less than ten years ago that I had never been centered as a poet because I had never been able to write about my own body and feelings as a fat person.

In this book you will meet us: five fat poets writing about our hopes, despair, happiness, sensuality, dreams, hurts, healing, exhilaration—about what it is to be alive and fat in a world that hates fat people, but in which we somehow persevere to make ourselves heard and ultimately celebrate.

We, members of the Fat Poets’ Society, are Kathy Barron, Anne Kaplan, Lesleigh Owen, Corinna Makris and Frannie Zellman. Welcome to our world.

Our biographies are at the end of the book.

FRANNIE ZELLMAN

Editor

“Do you see a human being
when you look at me?
Or just a thing
to be changed,
carved,
molded
into some form
of cookie-cutter perfectionism?”

KATHY BARRON



P.O. Box 58065 } NASHVILLE, TN 37205 | 615-356-5188 | 1-866-4-A-PEARL

Fax: 615-352-4222 | contact@pearlsong.com | www.pearlsong.com

Blog: www.pearlsongpress.com