

Eva Monika Borins

Eva Borins is an avid art collector and community advocate, now retired after 35 years of bookselling in Toronto, Canada and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Although her independent bookstores carried a wide selection of general titles, they were famed for their focus on art, design, photography, and fashion.

Eva and her husband of almost 50 years, Edward, started their art collection shortly after their marriage, using their wedding money to buy a small Rodin sculpture instead of furniture. The collection, which focused on Abstract Expressionists including Helen Frankenthaler, was ultimately sold to finance the property for their first bookstore, Edwards Books & Art.

As book store owner, Eva handled buying for five large stores and 13 franchise stores, as well as operating a warehouse and administering a wholesale remainder business. She also wrote weekly newspaper advertising. The stores were a Toronto institution, especially as a center for author readings and signings. It was the golden age of bookselling and everyone wanted to appear, including artists, writers, politicians, actors, singers, and Nobel Laureates ranging from Judy Chicago, Margaret Atwood, and Gloria Steinem, to Sophia Loren, Edward Albee, and Sting.

*Edwards Books & Art v. The Queen* is the name of the case that went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada and opened the doors to Sunday shopping in Ontario by defying a law that allowed the purchase of a *Playboy* magazine – but not Shakespeare – on Sunday.

After the couple moved to Santa Fe, Eva purchased Garcia Street Books, where her bookselling career continued on a smaller, but still vibrant, scale. It was a wonderful entry into life in the Southwest. She sold Garcia Street Books several years ago and briefly left Santa Fe to help with twin granddaughters in Vancouver. Upon her return, in an attempt to fill her now-empty arms, Eva began volunteering with Many Mothers, an organization providing support to Santa Fe families with newborns. Eva also decided to challenge herself in the swimming pool, resulting in medaling at the Santa Fe Senior Olympics. She became a board member and Corresponding Secretary for The Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library, as well as Treasurer and now President of the New Mexico State Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Eva has three children and now six grandchildren in Toronto and Vancouver.