

The Memory Bank Exchange

*Funds are there, in the memory bank,
saved and stored as raw data,
but access is denied.
Not enough credit, they say,
too many withdrawals,
not enough memory.
Your account has lapsed
over time, too many gaps,
and no one's accountable.
Bankruptcy threatens.
But wait –
the teller has come back from her lunch break,
she is ready to tell the story, again and again,
adding up the details, subtracting
nothing,
saving nothing for a rainy day.
She has brought our grandmothers, our mothers,
our sisters as witnesses,
each with her own account of what happened,
playing with the data,
correcting the balance,
compounding the interest.
Together, we unlock the safety-deposit
boxes of the heart,
share the wealth
of information, memory, hope.
We count on each other
And invest in our futures.*

Ellen S. Jaffe

