

# LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES

NEWSLETTER #13 — JUNE 1992

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**Welcome to The Archives' New Home, Brooklyn N.Y.**



Photo by Morgan Gwenwald.

Happy "new home owners" (from left) Polly Thistlethwaite, Beth Haskell, Joan Nestle, Deb Edel, Lucinda Zoe, Maxine Wolfe, & Judith Schwartz before entering the New Archives, just after the closing on Dec. 12, 1991.

## WHOOPEE!! WE DID IT

Yes, that beautiful building on the cover is the new home of the Lesbian Herstory Archives. WE purchased it on December 12, 1991 and have been making plans, renovating, and moving since then. The plans are, hopefully, for a grand opening in September or October. This Gay Pride month we as a community have this great accomplishment to take pride in, because WE made it happen. WE, all the Lesbians from all parts of the country who worked, believed, and supported the efforts to create a home for our words and voices made it a reality. And it never could have happened without the wonderful, generous help of all of us. Those of us who volunteer with the Archives are so thankful and awed by the outpouring of financial support from small to large that made this home for the Archives happen.

When our building committee saw this building for the first time it cried out to them to become a home for the Archives. From the classical moldings in the Parlor/Reading Room, to the turn of the century wooden fireplace and stain glass windows in the Dining/Media Room, and the Her's & Her's mahogany and marble vanity areas, this building has the atmosphere and style we deserve to house the collection which preserves our culture and legacy. On the practical side, this limestone fronted, three story townhouse is in good physical condition, provides sufficient space and needed minimum adaptation for our purposes. It is located in the Park

Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn, where a large concentration of NY dykes live within walking distance, and is close to a subway station for access from the rest of New York City.

The Archives proper will fill the first and second floors of the new building. The basement will have a darkroom, other work areas and some storage. The top floor has been converted into a caretaker apartment. Two of the coordinators, Polly Thistlethwaite and Lucinda Zoe, moved into the third floor apartment in January. They will provide security and day-to-day building maintenance. The space on the first two floors plus the basement will allow us to have the entire Archives Collection together in one place for the first time in many years. All of the rooms and wall space will be used immediately to hold the collection, but with enough space so that the collection can grow for the next few years.

Though the building was in good physical shape when we purchased it we have had to do some work on the building

as well as renovations to fit the space to our needs. We are trying to take this opportunity, while the building is empty, to do any structural or cosmetic work we think it needs because it will never be this easy again once the collection is in place. The only major structural problem with the building was it needed a new roof, which was repaired professionally by the end of December 1991. Before the caretakers moved in, volunteers painted and plastered the top floor, and the wood floors were refinished. Our first major renovation project was also done totally by volunteers. In order to pass city fire code a sheet rock wall needed to divide the top floor apartment off from the Archives proper. Three weekends were spent construction this wall and another spent plastering and painting. Volunteers have also painted most of the second floor and the kitchen, and built walls in the basement.

The major renovations necessary are on the first floor and are required to make this floor wheel chair accessible. A bathroom is being added on that floor that will fit standard assessable dimensions. In order to add this bathroom a new entrance to the Parlor/Reading Room is need. This construction work will be done by Lesbian contractors. The design and placement for the bathroom, as well as the over-all floor plan for the use of the space was the result of planning sessions held between the Archives Coordinators and our volunteer architects, Joan Byron and Lynn Gernert. In order to make the building itself wheelchair accessible we are having a lift and ramp installed to cover the six steps up the front stoop. This has not turned out to be as easy to accomplish as we had first hoped. None of the lifts we have found as yet fit the shape and space we have available.

Besides accessibility our other major concern is security. We are having a complete security system installed includ-

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*LHA Coordinators:* Amy Beth, Beth Haskell, Deborah Edel, Jan Boney, Janet Prolman, Joan Nestle, Judith Schwarz, Leni Goodman, Lucinda Zoe, Maxine Wolfe, Monica Neal, Morgan Gwenwald, Nancy Froehlich, and Polly Thistlethwaite.

*Newsletter Production:* Beth Haskell, Morgan Gwenwald, Joan Nestle and Janet Prolman.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives exists to gather and preserve records of Lesbian lives and activities so that future generations of Lesbians will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives. The process of gathering this material will also serve to uncover and collect our herstory. These materials will enable us to analyze and re-evaluate the Lesbian experience.

ing motion detectors, and having the ground floor windows replaced with shatter proof glass. All of these modifications and renovations are taking time. When we closed on the building we thought we might have moved by now. Actually while volunteers were plastering and painting other volunteers were packing the collection at the old locations and many boxes have been moved to Brooklyn and are now stored on the second floor. Once the first floor renovations are complete this month we will move ahead quickly on the rest of the packing and moving. But the coordinators have made a commitment to do things right, so we all have to have patience. Doing things right means doing construction to city code and getting all the necessary paper work so that there will be no problems or hassles down the line. Doing things right means spending the time planning out our needs for the space. And doing things right means producing a new Lesbian Herstory Archives home that will make us proud and our community proud of the fabulous support it has given the Archives, not just in these last few years' effort to get a new home, but over the whole 17 years existence of the Archives.

▼ Beth Haskell

## FUND RAISING FOR OUR NEW HOME

The image of an independent home for the Lesbian Herstory Archives has always been the dream of all who worked with the Archives. The first steps towards raising funds actually began in July 1979, when Marge McDonald proposed that the proceeds from an LHA slide show presentation she organized in Syracuse, NY be used to begin a Building Fund drive. The small gathering that night raised \$50 and the building fund was launched. Twelve years later to the month, negotiations for the purchase of an independent home for the Archives began, and in December 1991 the closing took place. The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc. became the proud owners of a limestone townhouse in Park Slope.

Between 1979 and the spring of 1986 little was done to spread the word or build up the fund. In April 1986 the first major step was taken to announce the Building Fund more clearly to a larger audience. We organized a gala event in New York which involved an evening of readings and performances followed by a dance. Close to \$6,000 was raised that night, and we were on our way. We talked of the building fund drive in our newsletter and introduced a collection can label to help others raise funds for us in communities throughout the United States. Our next big push came in 1990, with the development of a video tape about the Building Fund drive and a concerted effort to have our friends across the country organize house parties and events for us in their own communities. Our most recent campaign was in the fall of 1991, between the time of signing the purchase contract and the house closing. We sent out our urgent direct mail appeal, to which so many of you responded so generously.

Those of you who have read our newsletter over these last years know that we have raised funds in a variety of ways: house parties; direct mail appeals; slide shows and public speeches; community events organized by women in other cities; donations of partial proceeds from events by performers, bookstores and publishers; donations in honor of birthdays and other ceremonies and ritual

markings; memorial funds; newspaper ads donated by national newspapers and occasionally purchased for special events; matching grants; collection cans; and friends telling friends. Each event or activity was unique in style but the theme was a common one. Monies came in from individuals and groups around the world: direct donations; anonymous donations; honoring and memorial donations; long term loans at low interest rates; small bags of coins collected in the cans; rolls of pennies; small checks and larger checks; and community grants from \$1000 to \$5000. Here's how it added up:

up to and through 1986 .....	\$9,000
in 1987 .....	\$6,072
in 1988 .....	\$1,814
in 1989 .....	\$19,792
in 1990 .....	\$51,285
in 1991 to time of closing .....	\$174,013

In 1991 we purchased the building for \$313,000, with a down payment of \$163,00 and \$20,000 in closing costs and fees.

What is outstanding? We have a mortgage from the Community Capital Bank for \$150,000 at business loan rates, which though prorated over 15 years, is to be called in after five years. We owe \$48,000, excluding interest, in long term low interest rate loans to individuals in the community, the first of which start to come due in five years.

The monies we have on hand now are going to pay for the capital construction we feel is necessary before we can open the Archives to the community. This includes improving accessibility, rewiring the electricity, changing the windows to make them more efficient and also controlling for ultra-violet light as all good archives should, and for shatter proofing as all Lesbian organizations should, and installing a security system. Other funds have been set aside directly earmarked for the first year of mortgage payments. We do not yet have to worry about those payments, but we are starting to collect for the following year's mortgage payments. Some monies are set aside for moving costs.

It is our goal to pay off all our obligations before the five year period is up so that the building can truly be ours.

▼ Deborah Edel



Photo by Morgan Gwennwald.

Archives collection jar at a bookstore.

## LIVING WITH THE ARCHIVES

From a story told around the Lesbian Herstory Archives' table: the speaker, a Jewish woman in her late seventies, says, "I had a chance to read a copy of *The Well of Loneliness* that had been translated into Polish before I was taken into the camps. I was a young girl at the time, around twelve or thirteen, and one of the ways I survived in the camp was by remembering that book. I wanted to live long enough to kiss a woman."

For the last 18 years, I have lived in a home filled with shadows and voices. I have taken my breakfast with old time bar dykes and the literary women of Paris sixty years ago. I have walked through rooms peopled with Beebo Brinker and Gertrude Stein, Lorraine Hansberry and Diana of a thousand cities. I have heard the shouts of butches being hauled away in police vans, the measured tones of lawyers arguing for a people's humanity, the pleas of a lover to be with her sick comrade. I have heard voices thick with desire, voices cracked by time or social sanctions, but in my home, the home of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, they all spoke, all at once, the past and the present, the old and the new.

Sometimes I was overwhelmed by what I lived with, by the promise to each voice of a place in our memory, but more often I was awed by this gift of collective resonances. These voices have educated me, drawn my attention to a past courage that illuminated present struggles. Like the ancient mariner, I was driven to tell their stories over and over, to show their faces to each visitor. I found new meanings in these lives each time, new messages about gender and resistance, desire and social change, but I have not yet found a way to give to my listeners all that these voices and faces have given me. They have helped me evolve political positions, expand my understanding of women's history and develop many more hard edged ideas about Lesbian social identity, but something deeper needs to be said, something about the human spirit shaped by desire and marginality into stunning memorials of women's bravery.

To all the women who visited the archives over the years and thus visited my home, I thank you for the riches you always brought — the first book from Italy by and about Lesbians, the book of Croatian Lesbian love poetry, the photographs of Mexico's Gay Pride march, the photograph album showing one week in the life of a Danish Lesbian, the newsletter from Thailand announcing the Asian Lesbian conference, the buttons from hometown demonstrations and so much more. But the greater richness was the wonder of yourselves, your stories, your laughter, your silences, your awe, your gratitude. I travelled around the world on your words; I grew stronger from your strength.

All my writings were made possible by the archives being right outside my bedroom door. All the inspiration — and information — I needed was right there. All the verification of a dream was right there — that a home could be shared, that a people could put themselves back into history, that differences could be joined in a mutual respect, that women could maintain a grassroots cultural center without betraying feminist or socialist ideals.

The archives showed me the depth of generosity that exists in our community; the women who gave up weekday nights and Sunday afternoons to work on the collection, who welcomed visitors and

painted the kitchen, who walked Denver and fed the cats, who answered the phones and ran off flyers, who brought tea and flowers and fruit, who typed addresses and composed newsletters — all of these activities will go on in the new Brooklyn home, but I will miss the thrill of coming out of my bedroom and seeing fifteen women sprawled over my living room floor doing archives things. I will miss it all.

And to Deborah and Mabel — together we dreamed and worked and a world was changed.

▼ Joan Nestle

### AN ARCHIVES WISH-LIST

At the top of the LHA Wish-List right now is a brand new, spiffy Fax machine. We have gone without one all these years in part because of a copy service that receives and sends faxes in the ground floor of the building which previously housed the Archives. Now we need one of our OWN. Are you the Angel that could give us a Fax Machine? It should be new, but need not be fancy, just so it sends and receives faxes. The simpler the better so we all can use it.



Mabel Hampton in the living room of the apartment she shared with Joan Nestle and The Archives.

## FOUR SONNETS BY TWO WOMEN WHO LOVED EACH OTHER

*from the Individual files of the  
Lesbian Herstory Archives*

*Written before we lived together c. 1949*

### **Dream of Dreams** (From Jean to Lois)

I do not trust this present happiness  
Or believe the sweet enchantment of your kiss.  
I do not trust the momentary bliss,  
Remembering the years of loneliness.  
I cannot see in this new wilderness  
Although the paths are all as broad as this.  
Among the shadows do the serpents hiss  
Or do the putti wait to touch and bless?  
I cannot catch the stars or the tropic sea  
Or snare the tradewinds in the nets I make  
But I would give you all that I could take  
Because you are the dream of dreams for me.  
But in a silent dawn shall I awake,  
Awake and weep that such a dream could be?

### **The Forests of My Mind** (From Lois to Jean)

Whatever twisting path I chance to take  
Within the endless forests of my mind,  
Whatever devious way I choose to wind,  
You wait for me at every turn I make.  
And any lovely thing I see can wake  
Old longings for you — in a heart grown blind  
To all except the wall it dwelt behind —  
That neither time nor other loves could slake.  
Like stars beside the sun of what might be  
The years will fade between our then and now,  
And passions that have touched us with their breath  
Become but currents lost within the sea  
That will engulf our hearts because we vow  
A love to set against the winds of death.

*Written after 10 years together c. 1959*

### **I Dreamed I Saw You Old** (from Jean to Lois)

I dreamed I saw you old some distant day  
When time had marked you in its careless way.  
The hair that I had stroked when it was dark  
Was silver grey but curling softly yet.  
The skin that was so smooth when first we met  
Was gently lined. Your eyes, so brown and bright,  
Were sparkling still but soft with tenderness.  
Your slim but agile hands were quiet now,  
Your slender body seemed at last to rest,  
But it was still your face I loved the best,  
Its gentleness and calmness now increased.  
I dreamed I saw you old but loved you more,  
Since in my heart you will forever be  
As young as spring and still a part of me.

*Written after 32 years together in 1981, the year of Jean's death*

### **The Wings of Love** (from Lois to Jean)

To love and to be loved — we have kept this.  
Time touches us with greying fingertips,  
Furrows the face for tears, reveals the abyss  
Of death between the laughter and the lips.  
Yet we do love as long as you and I  
Turn to each other with this wonder reigning  
Between our hearts, as long as joy can fly,  
Rising like Phoenix with no ash remaining.  
We grow insensitive to others' touch,  
Content to walk as one, your hand in mine,  
And some have said we are alone too much,  
With narrow vision set too close and fine.  
But we shall face what fate the future brings,  
Our fragile hearts protected under wings.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives is hosting a special NYC fund-raiser for Gay Pride 1992. The event, a garden reception and reading, with New York area contributors to the just released book *The Persistent Desire*, will be held June 17 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services center. Over 20 Lesbians will be reading their contributions to the *Femme/Butch* anthology edited by Joan Nestle.

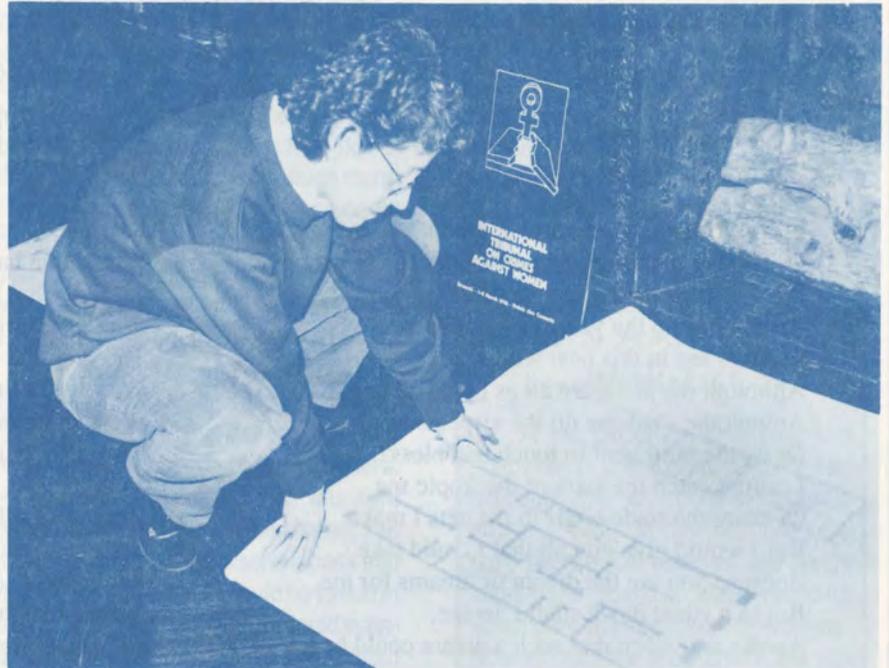
Event organizers Morgan Gwenwald and Lee Hudson are hoping to raise over \$4,000 to help with moving and construction costs at the new Archives building in Brooklyn. Actors Lois Weaver and Peggy Shaw will be MCing the event.

The book, just released this May by Alyson Press, is a break-through anthology on the subject of Lesbian Femme/Butch experience. Lesbians from around the world have contributed prose, essays, autobiographies, poetry and photographs to the volume.



*Polly Thistlethwaite painting the upstairs hall. This wall was built to close off the Caretaker Apartment on the 3rd floor from the main Archives space. Volunteers worked 4 weekends to construct a sheet rock wall that meets city fire code.*

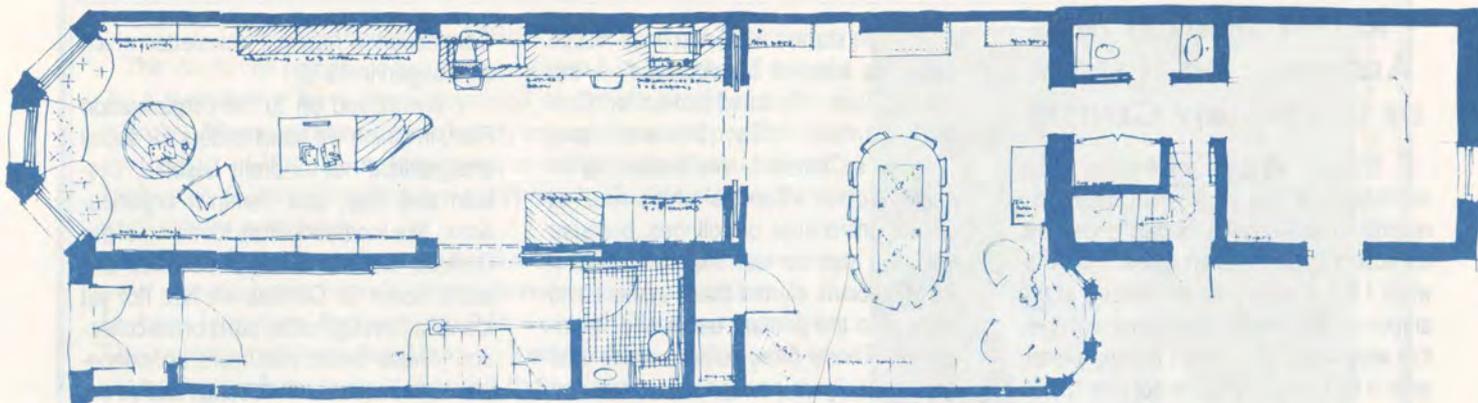
Photos by Morgan Gwenwald.



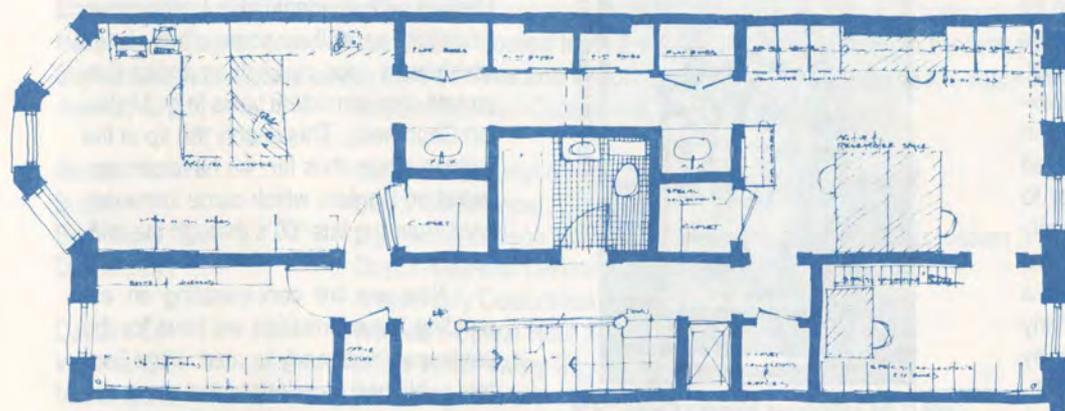
*Deb Edel studying floor plans by the fireplace in the new building. Coordinators and architects Joan Byron and Lynn Gernert met two full weekend days and one evening to evaluate the Archives space needs and collectively set priorities for renovation work.*



*Many weekend volunteer hours have gone into preparations for moving the collection. Construction, plastering, painting, and gardening were all done by women at the new house who answered a flyer asking for help that the Archives mailed to the tri-state area. Other women have been busy packing the collection itself.*



*Floor Plan for the first floor of the new Archives. The main "Parlor" floor will hold the book collection of the Archives in the main reading room area toward the front of the building off the hall. The middle area has work and organizational space for a computer, copy machine and fax. These two areas together can hold about 30-40 women for events. The former dining room will be our multi-media center and have space for major work parties at the central table. The wheelchair accessible bathroom in the hall is now under construction. The kitchen undoubtedly will be a center for socializing, as will the back yard.*



*The Second floor plan. Here there is more intensive use of space for collection storage and research work space. The front small room will primarily house the periodical collection, while the larger front room has space for an Archives office area and researcher work space. The back small room will primarily hold the special collection, but also allow for a quiet workspace where the door can close out noise for activities like the taping of oral histories or putting the newsletter on cassette. The main back room will hold the subject files in the filing cabinets and will provide lots of workspace for researchers or volunteers. The built-in wardrobes across from the Hers & Hers marble-top vanities will be used to store clothing and other 3-dimensional objects in the collection.*



*Three smiling Coordinators, Judith Schwarz, Joan Nestle and Deborah Edel (from left to right) sign the mortgage papers at the closing for the Archives' new building. The mortgage grantor, Community Capital Bank, was started specifically to fund small business and community based efforts in Brooklyn. The Archives was helped in getting this mortgage by the office of the Boro President of Brooklyn.*

## RESEARCHING AT THE ARCHIVES: THE HISTORY OF COMMUNITY CENTERS

Though I've been a volunteer at the Archives for almost eight years, it was only recently that I actually began to use the collection to do my own research. And, while I have always been amazed at the amount and diversity of material we have, this was the first chance I had to experience it first hand, to figure out how to use it, and to put it all together to answer some questions I have about our community history.

My project is about the history and development of lesbian and/or gay community "centers", the role they have played in our communities and their meaning for our individual lives, as well. The Archives research is the first part of my project. After this phase I want to interview lesbians and gay men who were involved in early centers and those who are involved in centers which exist now. In order to trace the origins of centers which openly call themselves "Lesbian", "Lesbian and Gay", or "Gay", I decided to start with a working definition of a "center" as "any place used, on a consistent basis, by lesbians and/or gay men for social/political/service/communication functions, which was not solely a bar or a place used solely for a particular religious denomination." And, although I'm interested in *places*, I am keeping a list of "hotlines" which often serve as a "center" for a community and out of which physically based centers have often evolved.

I've been working with Maria Maggenti and we've been spending one day a week for the past 5 months gathering information. We made up a form and for each center we located we record information about how it started, who started it, the founding date, the activities and services provided, who used and didn't use it, the organizational structure, the kinds of issues people grappled with both internally and in relation to the communities of which it was a part, where it was located, what the physical space was like, the funding and budget, and so on. We're also trying to document changes over time and to understand why some centers continue to exist while others have closed.

Maria started with what Joan Nestle calls "the heart of the Archives" — the subject files. We found folders for "Lesbian Centers", "Gay Centers", and "Women's Centers." We decided to include "Women's Centers" which were not part of universities or colleges, because we knew from our own experience that a lot of lesbians started these centers and were also the primary users and volunteers. These three folders alone had brochures, flyers, newspaper articles, and fund raising letters, for about 35 different centers. Several had photos as well. Whenever we found a piece of material which was chock full of information, for



Photo by Morgan Gwenwald.

Logo of the Tallahassee Women's Center, 1974.

example, a detailed history of the Center's founding, we photocopied it for our file. I started at the Reference Book shelf, going through the *National Gay Yellow Pages* which began in 1973. We also have the regional versions which began later and some local editions from different areas. While pulling these out I came across *The People's Alternative Yellow Pages* from New York, which was a 1972 publication with Lesbian and Gay listings. Part of the fun of using the collection is finding sources you didn't know existed while you are in the process of searching. I also found "Pride Guides" from several localities and other assorted local listing type magazines and pamphlets from the early 1970's. While information in these sources is limited, it is enough to start a folder and to be the basis for further searching. Maria then focused on Lesbian, Women's and Gay guide books, starting with *GAIA's Guide*, which began publication in 1974. I read through the early copies of the *Lesbian*

*Connection*, a national newsletter which also began in 1975.

We moved on to the "organization File", in which we keep folders for social and political not-for-profit Lesbian, Lesbian and Gay, and Feminist organizations. We located folders for some of the Centers we had already identified and found some for Centers we had not yet identified through other parts of the collection. These folders had flyers, announcements, minutes from meetings and so on. It amazed me that so many Centers wrote histories of their founding and purpose, which made our work much easier. By the time we finished using just these resources we had located 100 Lesbian and/or Gay Community Centers and 20 Women's Centers with an identifiable Lesbian participation, as well as some other places which were used by Lesbian and/or Gay groups on a consistent basis (e.g., Unitarian Churches). This is only the tip of the iceberg since, thus far, we have concentrated on Centers which came into existence from the late '60's through the mid-1970's.

Now we are concentrating on expanding the information we have for the centers we've already located. Most Centers published newsletters that are a rich source of information about activities, staffing, controversies, financial trials and tribulations, openings and closings and more. Many of the newsletters list the names of the people involved and we will follow through by using the Individual Files and the Special Collections, to see if there is more specific information available. Then, we will move to the Newspaper Collection. We're leaving the history books for last since we want to use primary sources first. But, we're not sure that this will exhaust our use of the Archives Collection since each time we use one part of it we are led to yet another. Once we finish our research all of our folders will be added to the Archives collection.

We welcome help with this project. If you know of an existing or previous lesbian and/or gay community center, we'd love to hear from you. Please send information to Maxine Wolfe, Community Center Project, c/o L.H.E.F., PO Box 1258, New York, NY 10116.

▼ Maxine Wolfe

**"In Memory of the Voices We Have Lost"**

The Archives is a place to commemorate lost lovers and friends. As a people we have been deprived of the rituals of communal sorrow. Many lesbians have already experienced the pain of silent mourning. Often in newspapers, a euphemism for death of a Lesbian is "There are no known survivors." This is not true. We are each others' survivors.

We hope that you will remember the Lesbians in your community, your sisters, your friends, through memorials and letters to the Lesbian Herstory Archives, so that we may all honor their lives. Their voices and lives should not be lost or made invisible when we are no longer here ourselves to tell their stories.

**Deanna Alida** May 3, 1948 - December 11, 1991 (pictured right)

**Donna Smith** May 2, 1919 - February 22, 1992

**Jean Roy Millar**

(a memorial fund was established in Jean Roy Millar's name by the women of Long Island for the purpose of enhancing the visual arts collection of the Archives.)



Photo by Morgan Gwenwald.

**Here is a listing of some of the places women from the Archives have spoken in the last year. We speak all over the country and sometimes abroad about the Archives and Lesbian herstory. This is one of the ways we can take the Archives to you.**

Atlanta, GA	National Lesbian Conference, LHA slide show	Joan Nestle, Lucinda Zoe, & Polly Thistlethwaite
Boston, MA	Outwrite 92, panel on Gay and Lesbian Archives	Joan Nestle
Bronx, NY	BLUS Conference	Lucinda Zoe, Polly Thistlethwaite
Bryn Mawr, PA	Bryn Mawr College McPride Scholars Program, Panel Discussion	Joan Nestle
Dayton, OH	Dayton Gay and Lesbian Community Center - Anniversary Celebration	Amy Beth
Dayton, OH	Women's Coffee Hour at GLCC	Amy Beth
Indiana, OH	White Water Valley Gay Pride Events	Amy Beth
Minneapolis, MN	Women's radio show about LHA	Amy Beth
Minneapolis, MN	LHA slide show at local bookstore	Amy Beth
Muncie, IN	Gay and Lesbian Youth Group, LHA slide show	Amy Beth
New York, NY	Clit Club, LHA slide show	Lucinda Zoe
New York, NY	"L is for the Way You Look" Benefit, LHA slide show	Polly Thistlethwaite, w/ Janet Prolman, Leni Goodman
New York, NY	Gay Women's Alternative, LHA slide show	Joan Nestle
New York, NY	New York Assoc. Gay & Lesbian Psychologists, LHA Slide Show	Deb Edel
Poconos, PA	Sister Space, LHA slide show	Monica Neal, Judith Schwarz
Richmond, IN	Earlham College, LHA slide show	Amy Beth
Richmond, IN	Subversive Women's Action Group	Amy Beth
San Francisco, CA	Gay & Lesbian Writers Conference	Lucinda Zoe, Polly Thistlethwaite
Washington, DC	National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Creating, workshop	Maxine Wolfe

**"KEEPIN' ON" IS KEEPIN' ON**

Last year the Archives produced an exhibit on African American Lesbians called "Keepin' On." Originally exhibited in the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in NYC, in the past year it has been shown in three different locations on the East Coast.

In the summer of 1991 in West Hempstead, Long Island, New York, the exhibit was sponsored by two community groups: Alternatives Corner, Inc. and Women's Alternative Community Center. Paula Grant, one of the exhibit's curators also appeared on a local radio program to discuss the exhibit and the Archives.

The Women's Studies Program at Rutgers University sponsored two hangings of the exhibit in March of 1992. The first was at Douglas College in the Women's Studies space and the second was at Livingston College Student Center. Hundreds of students viewed the exhibit during these showings.

In the summer of 1991 Bryn Mawr sponsored a month-long showing of "Keepin' On" at their Pennsylvania campus.

The exhibit is now back at the Archives, ready to travel. If you or your group would be interested in sponsoring the exhibit please contact Morgan Gwenwald at the Archives.

## LESBIANS AND AIDS — A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Questions about lesbians and AIDS or HIV are frequently asked at the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Information about lesbians and HIV transmission is scarce, unstudied by the government and mainstream health industry, and therefore difficult to find in most libraries. The government's agency for collecting transmission statistics, the Centers for Disease Control, ignores sexual specific behaviors implicated in HIV transmission (penis-anal intercourse, cunnilingus, etc.). Instead, statistics are arranged by IV drug use and sexual identity leaving us unsure of the rates and specific nature of woman-to-woman HIV transmission.

The government and medical industry both have been slow to recognize that HIV manifests itself differently in women than in men, leaving HIV+ women undiagnosed, untreated, and ineligible for benefits. Women, including lesbians, have been excluded from experimental drug trials (most treatments for HIV/AIDS are experimental) because of assumed "childbearing potential." Health educators stress the importance of condom use, but fail to explain the wisdom of a latex barrier when mouths meet vaginas.

Lesbian AIDS activists are responsible for much of what has been accomplished to address problems specific to women in the AIDS epidemic. We have educated ourselves and each other, taken direct action in the streets, in our bedrooms, and in the press. Below is a short list of books, articles, and videos regarding lesbians and AIDS epidemic.

- ACT UP/New York Women and AIDS Book Group. *Women, AIDS & Activism*. Boston: South End Press, 1990. A comprehensive work about women in the AIDS epidemic compiled by lesbian activists in ACT UP. A direct action primer and resource for our bedrooms and the streets.
- Califia, Pat. *The Lesbian S/M Safety Manual: Basic Health and Safety for Woman-to-Woman S/M*. Denver: Lace Publications, 1988. Safe sex from top to bottom.
- Califia, Pat. *Sapphistry*. Tallahassee, FL: Naiad Press, 1988. Includes the chapter "A Note On Lesbians and AIDS."
- Carlomusto, Jean. "Deep Inside Safer Sex Videos," *On Our Backs*, January/February, 1990. Jean discusses her safer sex porn video *Current Flow*.
- Cole, Rebecca and Sally Cooper. "Lesbian Exclusion from HIV/AIDS Education; Ten years of low-risk identity and high risk behavior." *SIECUS Report*, December 1990-1991.
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### VIDEOS

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- Doctors, Liars and Women*. Carlomusto, Jean and Maria Maggenti. 23 mins, 1988. GMHC. Portrait of ACT UP/NY's motley lesbian Women's Caucus in action against the publication of a misleading *Cosmo* article about HIV transmission and unprotected hetero sex.
- Latex and Lace*. Laird, Sutton, et al. 22 mins, 1988. Multi-Focus, 1525 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Lesbian, straight, and bisexual women talk about AIDS.
- Target City Hall*. DIVA TV, 28 mins, 1989. 135 W. 29th St., New York, NY 10001. Documents the massive demonstration by ACT UP New York at City Hall, March 1989. Features lesbian activists illegally strip searched upon arrest.
- Testing the Limits Guide to Safer Sex*. TTL Collective, 28 mins, 1990. 31 W. 26th St., New York, NY 10010. Engaging and humorous instruction of safer sex with Nurse Ribble.

## 1991 Economic Report for the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc.

In our first few years a good part of our money came from a titling by Lesbian Herstory Archives founders as they could give. Over the years the balance has shifted, so that ongoing expenses are now being met by community donations. 1988 marked the first year that our incoming donations topped \$25,000 and we had to file our first formal 990 with the IRS and all the New York State charitable agencies.

### How Do We Meet Our Expenses?

- ▶ All labor at the Archives is done by volunteers. It is a labor of love and many hard, long hours of work by a core group of women.
- ▶ We haven't had to fund-raise to pay rent, since the collection was housed in the apartment Joan and Lee share.
- ▶ Though our vision & knowledge of what needs to be done is great, our decisions about expenditures are based on actual income that we do have in hand.
- ▶ We are given generous donations of books and materials from the Lesbian community.

### How Do We Get Our Money?

- ▶ We receive donations from individual women who visit the Archives, read our newsletter, hear us speak or meet us at conferences and believe in the vision of the Archives.
- ▶ Money comes from our donation can at LHA and conferences where women give us dollars and change anonymously, as well as donations for the photocopying which we do in response to information requested in letters and by visitors at LHA.
- ▶ We receive honoraria for the slide show and speaking engagements we do about the work of LHA. We do not charge a set fee but ask that university and community groups with access to funding respect our needs. We often show the slide show to the Lesbian community in situations where we pass the hat. All honoraria and donations we receive for speaking go into the Archives account after we are reimbursed for personal travel expenses.
- ▶ We also receive money from donations for our poster, T-shirts, buttons and postcards.

▶ Monies come from grants from within the Lesbian community and alternative funding sources.

▶ Monies come from other sources such as memorial funds, workplace donations, cultural events, donations from other organizations and donations earmarked for special needs.

### How Can You Help?

▶ BECOME A FRIEND OF THE ARCHIVES.

▶ Undertake a fixed expense as your personal project. Let us know that you want to pay part or all of one of our expenses. We will gladly name it after you or let you choose a name.

▶ Send us basic supplies such as pencils, paper, blank mailing envelopes of all sizes, etc.

▶ Talk to your local publisher, organization, women's bookstore and arrange for us to get free samples, and review copies of books and journals.

### Income for 1991

General Fund:	
Individual Donations	6,007.37
Honoraria	312.50
LHA Can	226.00
Grants:	
Astrea	1,000.00
Open Meadows	1,500.00
Buttons, Pamphlets, Postcards	260.20
T-Shirt donation	870.40
Friends Campaign	7,615.00
Other Donations:	
Photo Exhibits	180.00
Matching Fund	35.00
Miscellaneous	80.00
Long Term Personal Low Interest Loan	25,000.00
Savings Account Interest	756.15
Endowment Account Interest	476.72
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>43,563.19</b>

### Building Fund:

Direct Appeal and House Parties	96,427.45
Large Individual Donations (+15,000)	55,000.00
Long Term Low Interest Loans	23,000.00
Interest	Account Chemical 2,665.33
	Account Man-Hanover 2,805.26
Community Capital Bank Mortgage	150,000.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>329,898.04</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>373,461.23</b>

### Expenses for 1991

Printed Materials	647.74
Storage Rental	1,533.00
Computer System	4,188.88
Equipment Repair	210.41
Bank Charges	245.46
Printing/Photocopying	6,586.22
Post Office Charges	525.00
Postage	3,061.39
Supplies/Stationery	942.57
Grants Disbursement	2,500.00
Events Expenses	1,829.39
Household Expenses	7,173.86
Services:	
Professional Services	350.00
Gratuities	250.00
Messenger	248.25
Building Related:	
Roofer	5,000.00
Appraisal	500.00
Engineer	500.00
Plumber	200.00
Other:	
Advertising	950.00
Chemical Bank Mortgage Application	250.00
Community Capital Bank Mortgage Commitment	750.00
Charities Registration Filing Fee	60.00
Banner	300.00
Termite Certification	17.00
Photo Duplication	433.68
Miscellaneous	1,845.82
Building Purchase	313,000.00
Closing Fees	15,409.40
Building Fund Bank Charges	523.95
Endowment Account Bank Charges	47.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>370,049.18</b>

Explanation of categories in charts: *Printed Material* includes books, pamphlets, posters, resource materials. *Printing* refers to outside photocopying, printing of fliers, announcements, newsletters. *Post Office Charges* refers to bulk mail permit and box rental. *Postage* includes not only costs of all individual and bulk mailings, but also return postage on bulk mailings. *Supplies/Stationery* includes preservation materials, basis stationery, cassette, audio and video tapes, film and photocopy paper. *Grants Disbursement* includes ongoing expenses grant projects. *Events Expenses* includes cost of space rental, supplies, set-up, etc. for both ongoing events and Building Fund events. *Household Expenses* includes telephone, electricity cost, as well as space usage fee. *Services* includes messenger services, etc. *Miscellaneous Expenses* are those little odds and ends like organizational dues and film development which don't fit in elsewhere but are ever so necessary.

*The Lesbian Herstory Archives is one of many lesbian community based archiving efforts through out the country. LHA provides assistance and support to many of these groups. Here is a report from one group.*

## DOCUDYKES: GRASSROOTS LESBIAN HERSTORY PROJECT IN TEXAS TAKES OFF — A REPORT FROM TEXAS

The Fourth Annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) held on April 12-14, 1991 in Austin, Texas provided a unique opportunity for us to empower ourselves with pride and strength as we move forward to address some of the main concerns brought up at this conference. The enthusiasm that carried us through the long hours of planning continued for many hours after the conference. One of the committees that continues to work on TLC '91 is the DocuDykes.

This committee was developed to record and preserve the records and efforts of the 1991 TLC. We are also gathering as much information as possible from the three previous conferences. Once this material is organized, it will be available for public research at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas in Austin.

The 1991 TLC workshop, "Our Stories," presented by Brenda Marston, Human Sexuality Archivist at Cornell University, heightened the enthusiasm of active DocuDykes members, but it also reached the audience in a very special way. Members of the "Out Youth" of Austin organization were present and felt the empowerment that documenting their own lives could have. As a result, Out Youth representatives also attended the first DocuDyke gathering, "Cooperative Collection Development of Lesbian and Gay Materials," held on January 25, 1992 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Texas.

Initially this gathering was designed to bring people interested in the collection of lesbian and gay materials together to talk about who is doing what and how we can work together to enhance this movement of collecting. Since DocuDykes are primarily "non-professional" archivists, we also wanted the lesbian and gay community to feel welcome. Three women made presentations: Brenda Marston; Ginny Daley, Women's Studies Archivist at Duke University; and Polly Thistlethwaite from the Lesbian Herstory Archives. They did an excellent job communicating to both professional and interested community members.

The following four basic issues around cooperative collection development policies for lesbian and gay materials were raised:

1. How to identify what subjects to focus on.
2. How to catalog these collections with the limited Library of Congress Subject Headings.
3. How to raise community awareness of existing collections and donating materials to a repository.
4. How repositories across the nation can work together to promote cooperative collection development of lesbian and gay materials.

Further dialogue is essential for understanding what these issues are and how we can work together to deal with them. This conference served as a starting point for nationwide cooperative collection development policies of lesbian and gay materials. DocuDykes are working with the American Library Association's

Gay and Lesbian Task Force 1993 Program Committee to develop a program on cooperative collection development.

Community awareness of documentation is a key element in the preservation of lesbian and gay experiences. The Out Youth group told how they were documenting their lives through videos, diaries, and oral histories. They are just one illustration of how community outreach can promote stronger collection building as well as stronger communities.

DocuDykes have several on-going projects. We are creating an oral herstory of Austin lesbian activism during the 1970s. Several lesbians have been identified for this project and are being interviewed. Another Austin project is to identify lesbian and gay collections already existing in area archives. Once identified, this list will be compiled and made available. During this process we hope to fill the in the gaps of missing newsletters and periodicals with donations from the community. By talking with and giving presentations to community organizations, we hope to promote the preservation of and access to lesbian and gay experiences in Texas.

Further, DocuDykes is preparing an orientation guide to promote common definitions of archival responsibilities among collectors, donors, and researchers. We welcome any ideas or suggestions as this guide is in its infancy and we hope to produce a reputable publication.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please write DocuDykes, P.O. Box 402063, Austin, Texas 78704.

▼ *Deb Shelby, DocuDykes  
Austin, Texas*

THE LOWDOWN  
COAST TO COAST  
August 29, 1965  
Vol. II, No. 11  
15¢

**Actual Photos**

**LESBIAN  
PICK UP  
ON →  
TIMES  
SQUARE**

BETTY BARRON THIS WEEK'S  
WEEKEND DATE See page 7

Pages 10-11 Strange love and affairs on Manhattan's busiest street!

*The Archives recently acquired an extensive collection of 1960s and 1970s grocery store tabloids loaded with sensationalized stories of lesbian sex.*

FREE  
*The*  
**Lavender Network**  
Oregon's Lesbian and Gay Newsmagazine  
MARCH 1991



International Women's Day

## ARTIST FOUND

The artwork on this cover (right) from *The Lavender Network* newsmagazine was borrowed from our own Lesbian Herstory Archives *Newsletter*, #9. We got this artwork from an uncredited linoleum block print on newsprint paper that is in our collection. At the time both covers were published the artist was unknown, but she has now been found. The artist, Kit Keith, saw *The Lavender Network* reproduction of her work and called them. The story as told by Rachael Merker, in a following issue of *The Lavender Network*, goes like this: "An angry Keith called TLN from Portland when she saw her work published without permission. Keith quickly got over her anger when it was made clear that we *wanted* to know who the artist was and credit her. The original (artwork) appeared twenty years ago in the *Willamette Bridge*, a Portland underground paper which Keith says was taken over for one issue by local gay liberationists. (They) solicited the original artwork from Keith. The image, which Keith says is her favorite piece of work ever, was taken from a photograph of two friends in San Francisco." According to Keith the quotation from Sappho below the block print was added by another woman, whose name she can not remember, so we still have one more lesbian herstory mystery to resolve with this piece.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives is delighted to credit Kit Keith's work that appeared on our *Newsletter* cover and in the collection. And we are equally pleased that the Oregon Lesbian community was able to solve our mystery of the missing artist.

## ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

**Black Lesbian Culture Book** is being compiled. Seeking past and present photographs, names, organizations, anecdotes and rumors, song titles and lyrics, publications, notes on personal style, lovemaking tips, recipes, black and white artwork, references, herstory and sheroes, conferences, ANYTHING by, about, and for Black Lesbians. Also need fund-raising ideas! Contact Terri Jewell, PO Box 23154, Lansing, MI, 48909, call 517/485-3500 anytime.

**Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality.** The Collier Books division of MacMillan Pub. has decided to bring out this trade paperback for a mass readership. I am looking for scholars interested in writing short pieces on areas in which they are or could become knowledgeable. The emphasis will be on basis facts, with some discussion of theories, but with a minimum of ideology and abstruse academic controversies. Contact Stephen Donaldson, Editor-in-chief, CEOH, 3147 Broadway, #12A, New York, NY 10027. 212/666-0344

**WATCH FOR THE  
SISTER CITIES CAMPAIGN**

The LHA *Newsletter* #12 is available on cassette tape for the visually challenged. We planned to have this *Newsletter*, #13 on tape by next fall. Write us if you would like a copy.

**A Dyke by Any Other Name...**

**31 Other Names, In Fact!**

**LHA Buttons & Magnets**

This design printed in bright blue and black ink on hot pink 2" square button - \$1.25  
magnet - \$2.50



NOTE: All materials from the archives are mailed in plain wrappers. The Archives mailing List is never loaned or sold to anyone! We may occasionally do a special mailing for another group, but WE will retain access, control and confidentiality.



Publishing the Newsletter is a time consuming and costly project. Please don't give up on us if there is a long pause between Newsletters. Be assured that our daily functioning is ongoing. We're requesting that women who are able to do so, and who value the Newsletter, please send us a donation to offset the cost of printing and mailing. Suggested donation is \$5 for this and the next issue. The Newsletter will continue to be sent free to any woman who requests it. We must ask libraries and "academia" based/funded programs to make their donation at least \$10.00.

**Back Issues Available**

Every past issue of our Newsletter contains a listing of Archives holdings on various aspects of Lesbian culture. Original copies are no longer available, but we can xerox copies for you at cost, plus postage (use order form below).

#1	6/75	Serial media w/Lesbian content; Research Project Ideas.	\$1
#2	3/75	Bibliography of Lesbian, Feminist & Gay Bibliographies.	\$1
#3	11/76	Lesbian Paperbacks, 1930s through 1950s.	\$1
#4	2/78	Poetry Collection.	\$2
#5	spring 79	Short Story Collection.	\$2
#6	7/80	Lesbian Herstory Sources; Special Collec. List.	\$3
#7	winter 81	Lesbian Sexuality Bibliography; Special Books Collections Listing.	\$4
#8	winter 85	International Collections Listing; Poetry Update; Unpublished Papers.	\$6
#9	2/86	12 pages reporting on Archives activities and projects.	\$3
#10	2/88	12 pages reporting on Archives activities and projects.	\$3
#11	2/90	12 pages reporting on Archives activities and projects.	\$3
#12	6/91	12 pages reporting on Archives activities and projects.	\$3

- Please add my name to the LHA Mailing List.
- Yes, I can help. Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Send Back issue(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

- Send \_\_\_pamphlets: LHA 86-1 @3/\$1.
- Send \_\_\_postcards (Deb on NYC street) @3/\$1.
- Send \_\_\_buttons @ \$1.25 each
- Send \_\_\_magnets @ \$2.50 each
- My address has changed. Old ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(My new address is entered below.)

Please print clearly, and don't forget your ZIP code.  
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