

LESBIAN HERSTORY



Rota Silverstrini
1941-1987

Friends in Ohio Assist in Rescue of Materials

In the summer of 1979 Marge McDonald first contacted us. She invited us to her home in Syracuse to do the Archives slide show. Joan and Deb drove up that fall to do the show in a lesbian bar. Only a handful of women attended. It seems that Marge pretty much kept to herself; she was shy, a self-described loner. After the show, Marge invited Deb and Joan to her house and talked about donating her writings and belongings to the LHA.

Marge was a passionate collector. She had about 6,000 record albums, knick-knacks, vases, wall ceramics, and a large book collection. Embedded amidst all of this was her prized assemblage of "lesbiania." She had Deco statues and lamps, hundreds of lesbian pulp novels from the 50s and 60s, first edition hardbacks of Gertrude Stein, Havelock Ellis, Mary Renault, and Radclyffe Hall, and original recordings by female vocalists from the 30s thru 50s. Most importantly, she kept her writing.

Through her collecting, Marge painstakingly documented her lesbian culture and sensibility. She planned and prepared for her collection to be preserved and available to the Archives. Through her writing, she crafted a magnificent portrait of her life as a young lesbian coming out in the mid-1950s. Marge wrote about her attraction to women, discovering the lesbian bar scene, struggling with her butch identity, her loves and losses, her isolation, the cruelty and harassment she survived. [See pg. 3 for an excerpt from Marge's diaries.]

In the fall of 1986, a friend of Marge's called the Archives saying that Marge had died. Marge was in the midst of moving back to her hometown in Ohio, so most of her stuff was still in boxes at the family's house. And, our friend said, Marge had done something very bold by including the Archives in her will. With this, she came out to her family. The family was stunned at Marge's revelation, and our friend heard "terrible things" were happening. She feared Marge's diaries had been destroyed.

A few days later, we received a letter from a lawyer in Marge's hometown. We had little time. Marge's belongings were scheduled to be auctioned off within a few weeks. The

lawyer invited us to send a representative to go through the books and records because, he said, "quite frankly, I am not capable of identifying the material nor are any of the people situated in this area." Within a few days, through friends of LHA, we contacted two graduate students at OSU, Kelly and Phyllis, who were willing to drive to Marge's hometown to salvage what they could.

On a Saturday a few days before the sale, Phyllis and Kelly arrived in Nelsonville, Ohio, a little wary of their status as "official" lesbians in such a small mid-western town. The atmosphere was tense, Phyllis said. They were greeted with some awkwardness by the lawyer and the auctioneer. Marge's relatives filtered in to take a look at them as they worked. They had to work fast—the auctioneer would only let them stay until 5 pm.

When they arrived, the lawyer handed them a box containing what he had of Marge's writing. We later discovered the diaries, although voluminous, spanned only the period 1955–57. We don't know what happened to the rest of Marge's diaries and letters. What we have is rich. It's the fullest account we have of lesbian life in the Midwest during the 1950s.

Phyllis and Kelly found a manuscript and a few photographs among the books and records. They came away with about 200 record albums and about as many books. As the afternoon wore on, Phyllis says, the auctioneer and family warmed up to their lesbian visitors and began to help them by holding up books and records they'd pick out asking, "Kelly, is this one?" and "Hey, what about her?" At one point Phyllis mistakenly put a Frank Sinatra album on the top of the "keeps" pile which prompted a holler from the auctioneer's father, "Oh my God, not Frank?"



Newsletter #9 Cover Update

In response to our request for information on the graphic we used for the cover of Issue # 9's, Barbara H. (Washington, DC) writes:

The original graphic came to us [RAT] from the Wilmatte Bridge, a small alternative paper in Oregon . . . The collective of women who were running [RAT] agreed to make it the centerfold even though the general lesbian consciousness of the group was erratic at best. I . . . hand cut a silkscreen-like version. There was no artist identified in the Oregon paper, and in keeping with the policy of RAT we didn't identify its origin, essentially treating it as in the public domain. ▽

There is a world of obstacles stretched between any donation and the Archives. In Marge's case we were lucky. Thanks to the women in Ohio we were able to recover much that Marge wanted us to have, despite the sloppy handling of the transfer. It could be that Marge's missing journals and letters were inadvertently tossed in the trash, or perhaps someone was more calculating than that. The materials that have reached us will be safely preserved at the Archives. ▽

Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter # 10—January, 1988

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Newsletter Committee: Morgan Gwenwald (editor), Beth Levine, Carol O'Donnell, Deborah Edel, Joan Nestle, Judith Schwarz, Polly Thistlethwaite, Vicki Sherman and Jean H.

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 history. These materials will enable us to analyze and re-evaluate the Lesbian experience.

THE WAY WE WERE: Marge McDonald's Diary Entry Describes Her First Visit to a Lesbian Bar—Columbus, Ohio—3/31/55

Following is an excerpt from the diary Marge McDonald donated to the Archives. It is in small notebooks and over 1,500 pages long. The names have been changed to protect the privacy of the women mentioned.

The careful dating of this entry and the fact that it was one of the few typed pages shows that Marge knew how important this moment was both because it marked her coming out into a public lesbian community and because it gave a portrait of a larger moment in American Lesbian history. Here are the Lesbian 50s in a mid-west bar—the tremendous courage and need that created them, the strategies created to find them, the codes of dress and behavior that protected a community from police entrapment—and most of all here is where Marge came home.

3/31/55

Thurs. Well, it happened today, after months of driving around every night until morning, restless, always hunting, I found it. Lou my neighbor just got in from Mass. She came over to see me and was telling me about a bar she had visited in Mass. She and her girlfriend had dropped into a bar to get a drink and there were nothing but women there. When the waitress started flirting with her they left. We both laughed about it. I said, "I wish I knew a bar like that in Col., so that Ted (imaginary boyfriend) and I could go, just for kicks." "We passed a place like that the other night when we were taking Paula home. Bob said it was a place where queers hang out but I can't remember where it is."

"Can you find out?" "Sue will remember. When she gets off work at seven we can pick her up and find out where it is." (Lou is a sophomore in high school and the rest of the girls are all her friends). So we picked up Sue, there were a gang of us riding around. After a while I brought up the subject of the queer bar and asked Sue where it was, being careful to mention that I wanted to go there with Ted. She showed me where it was. I was numb inside with anticipation, fear, excitement—everything. Bev, the girl sitting beside me said she thought it might be fun to see such a place. We dropped the other kids off.

Then after talking it over, decided to investigate the place. I was hoping she would, because for some crazy reason I didn't want to go in there by myself. I guess, I needed someone to bolster my courage. As we walked in the door, I was so excited I could hardly walk. There was a long bar running down the left side of the room, a juke box at the back, shuffleboard up front and on the right side of a partition there were booths, tables, and a piano. Near the door, men were sitting at the bar but at the back, women in slacks and shirts were sitting, talking and drinking.

Bev and I sat down in a booth on the other side. A heavy-set woman with shoulder length brown wavy hair (it's short now) took our order. Bev and I eagerly drank in the fact that she was in slacks and t-shirt. We sat there laughing and looking around but we couldn't see too much because the partition blocked our view of the women at the end of the bar. After a while we left but Saturday evening about 8:00, (4/2/55) we went back. This time we sat at the bar among the women, we had decided that we couldn't see enough sitting in a booth.

Bev whispered to me that some women on the other side of her had said, "Here's two new customers." We laughed and after a while Bev said, "Let's go, I don't like this place very well." I replied, "Oh, I don't know, I sort of like it here." But we left and went down to Caseys, another bar and had a beer. I feigned sickness and got rid of her. 10:00 found me driving around the block near the Town Grill, trying to summon enough nerve to go in by myself.

Finally, having whipped up my courage, I walked in and took a seat among the girls at the bar. I was a wreck. My elbows were shaking even tho I had them propped on the bar. I was too frightened to look at anybody. I stared straight in front of me. A cute girl with brown hair and warm eyes came up and took my order for a beer, after I proved I was 21 (I was 23 at the time).

I had sat there for a while when the girl on my left turned and said something about the weather. I mumbled some stupid reply being so ner-

vous I could hardly talk. If she had said "BOO" I probably would have fallen off the stool. I mentally kicked myself for not having started a conversation. I had sat there what seemed like an hour but probably wasn't, when a pretty blonde walked up to me and said in a warm friendly voice, "I hope you don't think I'm being fresh but I have noticed that you are new here and that no one has been talking to you. They think you are a police woman. I'm Toni and I want you to feel free to walk up and say 'Hi' to me any time you see me."

I managed a weak smile and said I would. I sat there my brain jumping from one thought to another so fast my head was swimming. But through it all came the hope that they would accept me and like me, and the fear that maybe they wouldn't. I was so glad that Toni had spoken to me. I sat there looking first at one sign and then another and stealing glances at a boyish-looking girl behind the bar in slacks and a man's shirt.

She had short dark brown hair, wore no lipstick and looked as if she had been sick. She attracted my attention that first night more than anyone there. After 11:30 the crowd started thinning out and soon there were only a few left at the bar. The woman on my left finally started a conversation with me and we talked about everything—books, music, etc. After talking awhile, she had managed to draw out the pertinent facts that I was a Homosexual but had never been around any of my kind before. ▽



Marge McDonald as a young woman.



The Lesbian Herstory Archives contingent at the October 11, 1987 Gay March on Washington, D.C. following majorette Claire. Our new banner (the top one), was made by Juana Maria Paz. Many women from around the country joined the Archives, carrying our small words-for-Lesbian signs, chanting and shouting at this largest-ever gathering in the Capital. Photo by Morgan Gwenwald

“For Love and for Life We’re Not Going Back” Archives Joins National March On DC

“Did you go to DC?” The Archives was there for the national march on October 11, 1987. Both of our banners and the little word signs (each one with a word in a different language or slang expression for Lesbian) were carried by a large contingent of supporters from around the nation. We were also joined by a contingent of women from the WOW Cafe in NYC. We chanted, celebrated and wept at what everyone agreed was the most moving, best organized gay march ever. It is hard to know what our impact may have been nationally, especially with the virtual newsblock in national magazines (not one word in the big three which will remain nameless here), but we do know it revived our spirits and intensified the determination of gay people and their supporters across the country.

The quilt was an important focus for all of us who have lost and are losing people in our lives to the AIDS epidemic. As Joan Nestle recounts: “With the capital a gray silhouette in the background, our mourning ground seemed to stretch

forever. The quilt was a tapestry of courage and love and playfulness I will never forget. As my lover and I walked the narrow path between names, we held each other very tight and looked very hard. So many gay men I had never met in life told me of themselves and even in death, their refusal to be silent held. Their loves, their fantasies, their delight in style, their courage to break gender codes—I thought of the women I had known and do know who also share that spirit, the refusal to accept the givens and the courage to risk ostracism for their looks, their stance, their bodies, their choices. Just as I turned from the quilt to look back to the gathered crowd, I saw the radical faerie contingent come dancing, prancing and shouting on the line of march and I was struck profoundly by how emptier, how drearier the world would be if this faerie spirit was ever lost to us. I think, I hope a new bond was created between gay men and women at this march, a bond that will not let us lose each other in the hard times ahead.” ▽

Friends of The Archives Program Will Support LHA Building Fund

Watch for a special mailing—a chance to become a Friend of the Archives. Plans for this special fundraising effort for the Building Fund have been in the works for several months. Our goal for the building fund is \$2,000,000. Many volunteers have come together to create this program and the brochure, describing the Archives and a way to be formally involved as a “Friend” or ongoing contributor. Over the years we have been often asked if there isn’t some way to become a “member” of the Archives. The Archives isn’t a membership organization, any woman can be a part of the Archives. We realized that many women felt a need for a formalized relationship to the Archives. So, following the example of many non-profit organizations, we have decided to organize a Friends Program.

Our feeling is that Friends are interested in maintaining the dream and reality of Lesbian pride by sponsoring the Archives financially. What better way to ensure the future of yourself and those you care about than by preserving our past today?

You will continue to receive mailings from the Archives along with the newsletter without being a Friend. The Friends Program is a way for you to focus support for the LHA in a specific and important area . . . our Building Fund. We hope when you receive the mailing you’ll be able to join us in this new relationship as we continue our work to preserve the words and materials reflective of Lesbian lives.

Archives Faces in JEB’s New Book of Photos

Along with the many faces in JEB’s new book are those of our own Deb, Joan, Judith, and Claire. Joan E. Biren, known through her photography work as JEB, has just published this second book of photos of lesbians, *Making A Way—Lesbians Out Front*.

As in her first book, *Eye to Eye*, JEB is concerned with representing a wide diversity of lesbians. Women of various ages, races, classes and occupations are shown in these black and white photos.

Three Theme Dances Presented To Aid LHA Building Fund

Well, we sponsored three dances this year because we thought they'd be a good way to raise money for our building fund and because Lesbians like to dance. (Research by the DOB Video Project has revealed that one of the prime motivations for the founding of DOB was to provide a place for Lesbians to dance, since you basically couldn't in gay bars in the 50s.) We thought these dances should be historical theme dances because, after all, we are the Lesbian *Her-story* Archives and because Lesbians love to dress up (see Stormé, Nataley Barney, et al) and, as I said before, Lesbians like to dance.

A dance committee was formed from our regular group of volunteers and together we wrangled out the particulars for the dances. Those of us who had High School Prom experience set the tone. Those of us who skipped the prom (and possibly high school) due to early-blooming as a Lesbian (or those of us who are too old to have experienced the possibilities of same-sex prom dates) brought other organizational skills to the planning (softball league, theatrical lighting design, march organizing).

To the first dance, the 1910s and 1920 dance in October, we all came with our slick heads or seamed stockings. After set up, but before showtime, I was wandering around trying to find someone . . . I didn't care, butch or fem, it was getting late . . . someone to help me tie my bowtie because I had forgotten how. Deb was busy setting up so I asked Joan if she knew how and she said "No, darling, but Oh! the pleasure I have had at the hands of those who do." A young dyke I didn't know, overheard, laughed with us, sidled up behind me and quickly, cleanly tied my tie.

There were two mysterious Lesbians who danced a perfect Charleston, and other 20s dances (getting together appropriate period music was one of Pam's tasks). They were also dressed to a 'T', one in flapper dress and headband, other in a Yalie Sweater and hat. Others of us danced it not so well, and some danced it poorly, but we were all proud of those who bravely danced it at all and especially proud of the Lesbians who danced the Charleston in the 20s.

The second dance, the 1930s and 40s dance in December, had a lot of Rosie the Riveter's and skirts. We all came with our slick heads or painted-on-seamed stockings and tried to

white shirts not tucked in in the back, or we came in patched jeans or mini-skirts and bandanas and hippie bands and military coats and lavender arm bands. We carried chains and knives and had liquor bottles tucked in our coats and secretly showed these to each other in the back room. At the door we stamped our wrists with a little blue star, just like the tattoos dykes used to flash each other from beneath their watchbands. We were butch and fem or ki-ki or nothing because we weren't into roles or definitions. We did the Jitterbug, and the Twist, and swam and shouted until the Center closed down. Needless to say, more of us knew more of these dances and many were having nostalgia attacks on the dance floor.

When we emerged into the cool night air we were glad to be in the 80s and part of a time that not only was organized and openly fighting for our rights and could *have* a community center and Lesbian Herstory Archives, but also studied and preserved our history.

At the last dance two representatives from the The Heritage of Pride (NYC's gay pride march organizers) presented a plaque to the Archives for service to the community. Deb and Joan and Judith were happy to accept on behalf of all of us at the Archives.

At the three dances we made about

\$1,450 (after deducting costs of \$2 per head to The Center, refreshments, and the DJ fees). This goes into our Building Fund. Although the dances were a lot of fun they were also an incredible amount of work for many of us, and not a terribly efficient way to fundraise. We estimate about 150 women attended each dance. Thanks to all who attended and especially those who had the nerve (or abandon) to dress up. ▽



dance the Lindy when our DJ for all three dances, Kat Abrams, played it. There were more Lesbians who knew the steps to the dances of this period; the floor was hopping.

The third dance was the 1950s and 60s dance in May, and was the best attended and we think, the most fun. We had the room decked out with 45s and balloons. We all came with our slick heads or fishnet stockings . . . or leather jackets and cuffed levis and

Archives Sponsors Video Project on The Daughters of Bilitis

Over the past year an exciting new project has been underway at the Archives. It is the DOB Video Project, an extensive gathering of interviews and materials on the Daughters of Bilitis. The final collection of oral history interviews on VHS video tape will be housed in the Archives and available to future researchers. In addition the tapes will be compiled along with background material into a 90 minute to 2-hour video tape describing the DOB and its members. This tape will be distributed as widely as possible.

This large undertaking is being carried out by Morgan Gwenwald, Manuela Soares and Sara Yager with The Lesbian Herstory Archives serving as sponsor. When the project is completed they will have conducted interviews with many of the organizers and early members of The Daughters of Bilitis, the oldest Lesbian membership organization in the US.

Founded in San Francisco in 1955, the DOB undertook a wide range of educational and political activities including the publication of *The Ladder*, their organizational magazine.

The list of women involved in DOB over the years reads like an honor-roll of early Lesbian activists: Phyllis Lyon, Del Martin, Barbara Gittings, Martha Shelley, Sarah Aldrich, Gene Damon, Lily Vincentz and Ruth Simpson, to name a few.

There were eventually chapters of the DOB in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston. The only surviving chapter is in Bos-

ton. They are providing many of the same services and activities as the original San Francisco Group.

The DOB Project has traveled to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Key West, upstate New York, Philadelphia and Tallahassee, Florida as stories and materials have been collected. Over 60 hours of interviews have been gathered and many more remain to be done. Once the initial interviews are over, the difficult task of editing all the events, viewpoints and women into a coherent story remains. The first effort at this, a 30 minute clip, will be shown at Gay Women's Alternative in New York as part of NYC Lesbian and Gay History Month in June, 1988.

The women we've interviewed have been extremely helpful and informative. It has been a rare privilege to spend hours listening to the fascinating stories of these early Lesbian activists. We have also been gathering background materials such as photos, fliers, and clippings to add to the Archives DOB Collection.

The women we have interviewed so far: In San Francisco, Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, Nina Kaiser, Helen Revelas, Pat Helin, Barbara Deming, Karen Anderson Ryer (Wells), Billye Talmadge, P.D. Griffin (Griff), and Lois Beeby (Lois Williams); in San Jose, Nikki Nichols; in Costa Mesa, Stella Rush (Sten Russell) and Helen Sandoz (Helen Sanders); in the Florida Keys, Shirley Willer, and in Tallahassee, Barbara Grier (Gene Damon) and Donna McBride.

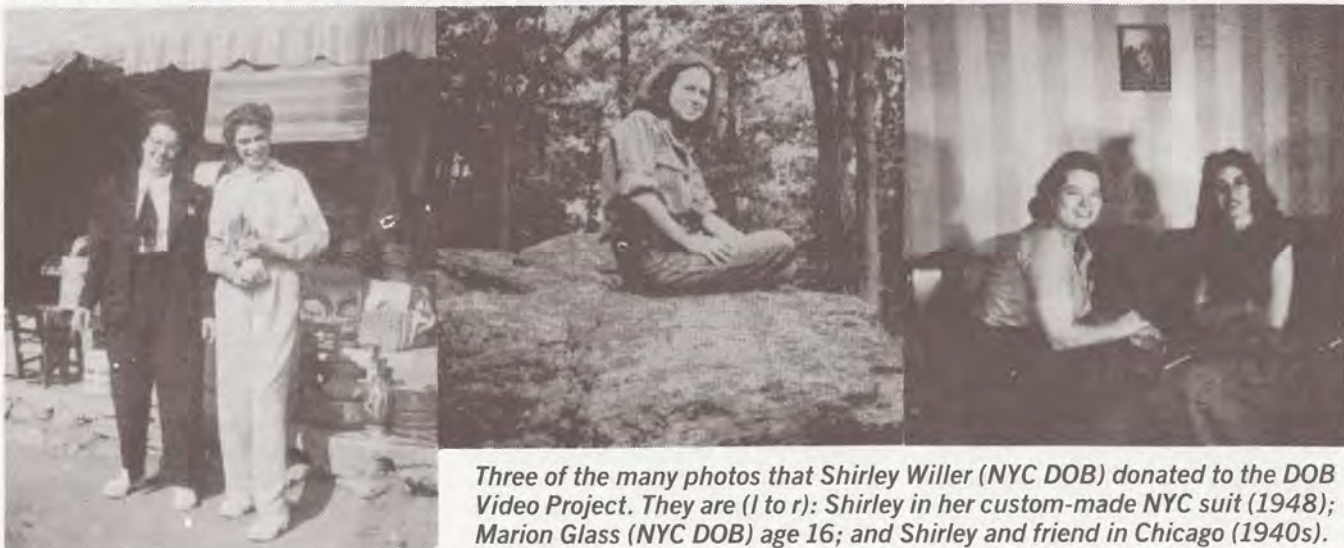
We are now concentrating on the East Coast membership and have started interviews in the New York area. So far we have taped Arcus Flynn, Alma Routsong, Pat Turner (Kim Stabinski), Judith Schwarz, and Marilyn Lamkay. We've traveled to Philadelphia to interview Barbara Gittings.

We have also recorded two panels on the DOB: the first was at Amazon Autumn, NJ (Judith Schwarz, Barbara Gittings and Julie Lee); and the second was at Berkshire Conference in Women's History, Wellesley College, (Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, Barbara Gittings, & Lois Johnson).

Chicago Resource Center Awards \$10,000 Matching Grant to DOB Video Project

Funding for the DOB Video Project is underway, with grants already secured from The Astraea Foundation (\$1,000) and the Sophia Foundation of Chicago (\$2,500). A matching grant has been awarded by the Chicago Resource Center (the folks who funded our computer two years ago) for \$10,000. Other grant money is being sought, as well as individual donations.

It is important that we meet the \$10,000 of the matching grant as soon as possible. If you would like to make a contribution, or if you have materials or experiences related to the DOB, please contact us at: The LHA/DOB Video Project, P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116 (212) 874-7232.



Three of the many photos that Shirley Willer (NYC DOB) donated to the DOB Video Project. They are (l to r): Shirley in her custom-made NYC suit (1948); Marion Glass (NYC DOB) age 16; and Shirley and friend in Chicago (1940s).

Volunteer Profile: Vicki Sherman

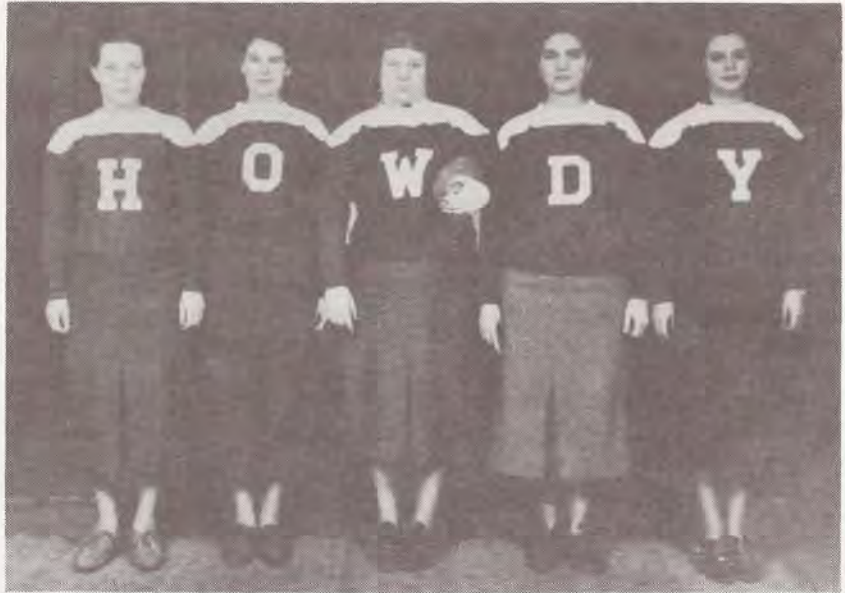
Ever wonder who the Archives *really* is? We are many women in NYC and surrounding areas who volunteer on a regular basis; on an infrequent basis for special mailings and work parties; who come to dances, fund-raising events and At-Homes; who live in the middle of the US and read the newsletter; and who use the collection for research, books, films, and articles.

In this issue we thought we'd tell you a little about one of us who works at the Archives on a regular basis, in fact, the woman responsible for keeping the mailing list updated . . . Vicki Sherman. She is one of the two dozen or so women who volunteers at the Archives on a more-or-less regular basis. This crew works on the endless ongoing tasks required to keep the Archives functioning.

Vicki has been a fixture at our IBM-PC every Thursday night (the regular Archives work night) and some other days, especially days off from her teaching job. She is constantly updating the addresses of the very mobile population of Lesbians who make up our mailing list. She also adds the new names collected at conferences and presentations. By keeping the mailing list up-to-date, Vicki not only streamlines our operation and gets you your mailings, but also saves us money in returns from the post office.

When she is out of names to enter Vicki turns her attention to the endless lists of materials that we hope to have computerized one day. She has already input the entire unpublished papers collection, (over 700 entries), and is currently working on doing a computer listing of our biographical files.

Does Vicki like computers? "No". Does Vicki like typing? "No" Why, then, does she do it? "Because, it has to be done! **Until a new volunteer comes along to help me enter this interesting data,** I will do it alone with a smile on my face and an illuminated screen." Does this sound like a school teacher or what? ▽



This photo of the waitresses at Howdy's (a NYC gay bar, circa 1940) is one of many that the Archives is contributing to the upcoming exhibit: "The Emergence of a Community: Lesbian and Gay History 1947-1987" which will be held in the Tweed Building Gallery on City Hall Park. This exhibit, organized by Lee Hudson, of the Mayor's Office, will have many large panels covered with images reflecting the growth and organizations of the Lesbian and Gay Community in NYC. It is planned to coincide with NYC Lesbian and Gay History Month in June '88, and will be the first such exhibit of its kind in the country. Museum cases will hold important memorabilia and books related to the subject. A show catalog, with articles by Jewelle Gomez, Joan Nestle and Jonathan Katz is being produced as well.

LHA Slide Show On The Road

Although based in New York City the Archives is a 'home' for Lesbians around the world. The collection has materials from Lesbians in many different countries and all over the US.

As part of our outreach to build the collection and share materials with interested women, the LHA Slide Show is shown whenever possible. Archives representatives also attend conferences, make presentations, serve on panels, and help organize such events when travel consideration and time allows.

Following is a brief recap of some of these activities:

Deb Edel along with Nan Cinnater of SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) organized a special panel at the Berkshire Conference in Women's History held at Wellsley College. Members of SAGE, the Archives, and the Moody Garden Gang participated. Issues of aging and early lesbian experiences were shared with a large audience. The conference is held every 3 years for women's history scholars to share their research and

publications. This year had a large number of Lesbian-related presentations, organized by Liz Kennedy.

Joan Nestle attended an international scientific conference on Gay and Lesbian studies, entitled "Homosexuality, which Homosexuality?" It was held at the Free University of Amsterdam. In addition, Joan visited the Dutch community of Nijmegen and presented her slide show, "Lesbian Courage pre-1970", at their Lesbian archives.

The LHA slide show was shown at the following gatherings:

LHA Coffee House, September, '86.
Bergen County Lesbian Awareness Group (NJ) November, '86.
Amazon Autumn (NJ), DOB Panel, November, '86.
GAA of Morristown (NJ) April, '87.
Alternative Corners (NY), May, '87.
GAA of Teaneck (NJ), July '87.
Orient Point Fundraiser, (NY), August, '87.
SAA Speech (NYC), September '87.
Amsterdam and Nijmegen (Netherlands), December, '87. ▽

“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 the death of a Lesbian is “There are no known survivors”. This is not true. **We are each other's survivors.**

I am very grateful to you for publishing the note “No Known Survivors” in your recent newsletter. It had not occurred to me before that there might be a way to commemorate my former lover . . . I know very well the “pain of silent mourning” which you describe—I was prevented even from attending her funeral on the grounds that her relatives might deduce that she was a lesbian. . . .—from a letter to the Archives

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.

Caroline Shumaker, Mar 29, 1942—Jan. 21 1984, Chicago & Kendall, WI

Dana Grace Lanner, age 32, Lansing, MI & South Carolina

Dorett Wolffberg

Eleanor Hakim, Aug. 16, 1936—June, 1985

Elizabeth Jean “Libby” Brice, Feb. 20, 1952—March 1, 1987,

Albuquerque, NM & Tallahassee, FL.

Elizabeth Gooch, died 1987

Florence Jaffe, died 1987, San Francisco

Gloria Blanchette, Dec. 6, 1935—Nov. 23, 1985

Kathy Di Bella, died 1987

Lois R. Hart Sept. 22, 1933—August 4, 1987, NYC

Maggy Krebs, 1929—1958, Los Angeles & Boston

Meg Brigantine

Marguerite Ann McDonald, Dec. 21, 1931—Dec. 17, 1986

Nancy A. Gentile, May 10, 1950—Jan. 24, 1987

Rota Silverstrini, 1941—1987

Helen “Sandy” Sandoz, Nov. 2, 1920—June 6, 1987, Los Angeles

Sari Seiff

Vivian Roll

Vivian Salerno, 1952—Oct 6, 1986



Libby Brice



Maggy Krebs



Marguerite MacDonald

Sonnet # 28

by Marguerite MacDonald

Others before have walked the path I trod
 Their arms entwined with dark companion death.
 Some bravely silent, others crying God
 And all felt upon their cheeks the breath
 Of the betrayer and the fatal touch
 And mostly not a trace to mark their day.
 Only a few survive the deadly clutch
 By walking first and marking all the way.
 A vaccine here and there a symphony,
 A telescope, a bit of radium.
 A square of canvas for the world to see
 Is there anywhere one to count their sum?
 Having a leg too short for such a pace
 I can but lag and die and leave no trace.



The Names Project Quilt, October 11, 1987, Washington, D.C.

Don't Let Your Voice or Your Life's Work be Silenced... MAKE A WILL

We often postpone or avoid writing wills or other documents related to estate planning. For some, it feels overwhelming, others feel they have so little it really doesn't matter. But it does matter. Having a carefully thought out estate plan is the only way to make sure that whatever you have, whether it is one book or an extensive collection, one poem or a body of literary works, a few dollars or a large sum of money goes where you want it to go at your death.

Without a will, all your property could revert to distant, uncaring or even rejecting relatives or to the state. Please make a will to keep this from happening. To ensure that your will is legally valid and fully enforceable we strongly recommend that you consult with an attorney.

Help us to help prepare for the future growth and the financial continuity of the Archives. Let us know if you have included the Archives in your estate planning. If you share this information with us not only will it help us know our future is more secure because of your financial commitment to our work, it will also help us make sure that what you want to happen with your personal materials does happen.

Financial donations can be made in various forms such as bequests of specific amounts of cash, as a be-

quest of a part of one's estate and/or a bequest of a particular asset, such as real estate/or stocks. LHEF, Inc. can also be named as a beneficiary or as a contingent on a life insurance policy, retirement plan, or an annuity.

Donations of books, records, tapes, photographs, art work and other personal letters, papers and property can also be left as a bequest to the Archives. The more exacting the detail in the will the less the chance of materials being lost or destroyed.

Unpublished papers and manuscripts present particular issues for authors. The physical body of materials may be donated regardless of literary or publishing control. Issues of literary executorship need to be spelled out if they are a concern to you as an author. These issues in particular are ones which should be discussed with a knowledgeable attorney.

When making a bequest it is best to use our legal name: **Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc.**

The following forms may serve as guidelines for you and your attorney in the preparation of your will.

For a **Specific Bequest**, of a stated amount of cash or named piece of property, or possessions:

I have and bequeath the sum of \$_____ to The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., of New York, New York, for the general pur-

poses and use of LHEF, Inc.

I have and devise to The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc. of New York, New York all right, title and interest owned by me at the time of my death in the land and buildings situated at _____.

For a **Residuary Bequest**, or everything remaining in your estate after administrative expenses and taxes, etc. and specific bequests to other beneficiaries:

I give, devise and bequeath to The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc. of New York, New York all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate.

For a **Contingent Bequest**, that takes effect only in the event of a prior death of other beneficiaries, (eg. you intend to leave everything to your lover, but she dies before you, in which case you want your estate to go to the Archives).

If (Name/Names of beneficiary) does not survive me, then I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, remainder and residue of my estate to The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc.

A contingent beneficiary is especially important if you want to be sure your estate does not go to distant relatives or the state.

We hope these suggestions will help you with your estate planning.

Economic Report For Lesbian Herstory Archives Since 1986

Since its inception, funding and budgeting for the Archives has been based on the belief that we will do the best we can with what we have. Our existence will never hinge on economics. We believe if we show our commitment to preserving Lesbian culture then the Lesbian community will respond by sharing with us what resources they can. Finally, no woman will be denied access to any materials of the Archives or events run by the Archives due to lack of money. In our first few years a good part of our money came from a tithing by LHA founders as they could give. Over the years the balance has shifted, so that ongoing expenses are now being met by community donations.

How is it Possible For Us To 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 wonderful core group of women.
- The Archives has never had to fund-raise to pay rent. It is housed in an apartment where Joan & Deb and now Joan & Judith live. They pay the rent and have less and less personal space as the Archives spreads out all over their home.
- The basic electricity and phone bills are paid by the women of the household as part of their regular living expenses. Long distance calls are reimbursed by LHA.
- 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.
- The Archives is 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 honorariums for the slide

show and speaking engagements we do about the work of LHA. We do not charge a set fee for presenting the slide show but ask that university and community groups which have access to funding respect our needs. We often show the slide show to the Lesbian community in situations where we pass the hat. All honorariums 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**, see article on page 4.
- 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 a name of your choice if you desire, e.g., The Radclyffe Hall Memorial Storage Unit, the Ma Rainey Bulk Mail permit . . .
- Send us basic supplies such as pencils, paper, blank mailing envelopes of all sizes, mailing tubes, etc.
- Talk to your local publisher, organization, women's bookstore and arrange for us to get free samples, review copies of books and journals.

Explanation of categories in charts:

Printed material includes pamphlets, posters, resource materials, op works, new publications. We thank individual authors/publishers & journals who have sent their work to us so that we haven't had to purchase books or subscriptions.

Printing refers to ongoing costs of running the photocopy machine, occasional outside photocopying (often requiring reduction work), printing of fliers and announcements.

Mailing includes the bulk mail permit, PO Box rental, bulk mailings, and postage for correspondence.

Archival supplies include preservation materials such as acid-free file folders, paper, Hollinger boxes, rust-proof staples, mylar book jackets, slide holders. Much of these costs are kept down through donations.

Sources of Funding for Lesbian Herstory Archives for 1986 and 1987

	1986	1987
Individual Donations	8,110	3,901
Benefits	9,148	7,435
Honorariums From Slide Shows/Speeches	729	175
Postcards/Posters Project	18	24
T-Shirt Project	693	37
LHA Donation Can	160	261
Grants		
Open Meadow	1,200	—
Funding Exchange/Nat. Community Fund	500	—
North Star	—	300
Astrea	—	1,000
Sophia Fund	—	2,500
Women's Funding Coalition	236	179
Build. Fund (incl. interest)	2,886	—
Building Fund	—	3,042
Building Fund Interest	—	674
Interest from Savings Acct.	130	161
Special Donations:		
DOB Project	—	570
Total	24,611	21,887

Where the Money Went In 1986 and 1987

	1986	1987
Books	267	349
Equipment	1,783	3,320
P.O.	1,901	1,411
Printing/photocopy	2,711	1,072
Arch. Mat./Stationery	848	710
Audio/Visual	497	448
Other	*4,998	†5,188
Total	13,008	12,521

Audio/Visual includes cassette tapes for oral histories & events plus duplication, film for duplication & slide shows plus processing, and video tapes for projects & film & snapshot documentation.

* 1987 Other, includes such things as t-shirts (1,013), Buttons (591), air conditioner and installation (983), bank service charges (188), benefits/dance costs and space rental to Lesbian & Gay Community Center (1,787).

† 1988 Other, includes such things as dance expenses (1,225), At-Homes (130), other benefits & events (476), bank service charges (130), room rental to Gay Center for events (900), grant disbursement (1,420).

These figures are as accurate as possible. All financial records are open and available for reading to anyone interested. Contact Deborah Edel at the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

'At-Home' Series at NYC Lesbian/Gay Center

Our "At-Home With the Archives" series has continued over the past 2 years with several programs held at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center in NYC. These evenings have continued our tradition of providing a place for lesbian cultural workers to share their art with their community.

The first "At Home" in this series was an Archives Retrospective—a slide show with discussion of recent activities, readings from the Visitor's Book, and a fashion show of t-shirts and other 'artifacts' from the Archives.

We hosted 3 fascinating slide shows: Judith Schwarz on "Radical Women of Heterodoxy", June Chan on "Asian Lesbians," and The San Francisco Archives "She Even Chewed Tobacco," (on passing women in the 1900s.) Last fall we presented an informal slide show of eclectic images from our collection depicting Lesbian life from the 20s to the present.

"Lesbians Make Music" featured several women sharing their talents on dulcimer and guitar, singing folk and 50s/60s favorites. Our "At Homes" are often a sharing of information, and many lively discussions ensued. We talked about "Lesbians and Aging," with women from SAGE and MATRIX; a panel (including biological mothers, a co-parent, and the daughter of a lesbian) spoke on "Lesbian Mothers and Co-Parents."

Judith McDaniel read from her book *Sanctuary* and led a discussion on non-violence, the Women's Peace Encampment and her capture by the contras. Joan Nestle coordinated an evening called "The Erotic of Our Lives" where women shared their personal erotica, poems and stories.

The success of the "At-Homes" these past 2 years is due to the work of Pam and Carol 'Thanks', from your friends at the Archives and in the community. ▽

Goodbye To 'Spyke'

In December we had a good-bye party for 'Spyke', our intern from UC at Santa Cruz. Spyke spent six months with us as part of her field work experience. Thanks to her presence the Archives was able to be open for many more hours during the day for visitors and researchers. Along with her many tasks Spyke also started an Archives time-line so we have a clearer sense of our own history and how it connects with Lesbian history across the country. ▽



Becky BIRTHA and Joan Nestle read from their recently published books at the December "At-Home" held at the NYC Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

International Gay Conference Reports Lesbian Bar Raid in Peru

Joan Nestle brings this message from the Lesbian/Gay Studies Conference in Amsterdam:

One message I want to carry to you is about a bar raid carried out in Lima, Peru and televised on Peruvian television. Two Lesbians from Lima were present at the conference and they called an emergency meeting to inform us and show a tape of the newscast. The police had called the station to inform them of the intended raid so they could make sure to have their television camera there. We had been spending a day discussing the world of butch-femme communities and identities when the meeting was announced. All our differences fell aside in that room as we watched the police haul out young butch-femme

women from the bar to the jeers and taunts of hundreds of people, as we watched them being shoved into the police wagons, vainly trying to protect themselves from the cameras and the police.

The young femme women received the loudest taunts and sexual shouts while the butches tried to fight off the shoves and fists of the police. I saw recreated before me in another time and another place the bar raids of the late 50 and early 60s. The two women then told us that one of the women had been sexually assaulted in the jail and that despite a curfew in Lima that allows anyone on the streets after a certain time to be shot, these young women choose, in the middle of the night, to be released

rather than spend any more time in jail. They spent the night huddled in allies and doorways waiting for the dawn to come.

For many this was a coming out announcement to parents and employers. A coming out forced by the police and government. The newsclip of the bar raid was broadcast over and over again throughout the day to make sure as many people as possible saw it . . . and the women arrested.

The conference sent a letter of protest to the president of Peru. When I finally presented the slide show about the courage of Lesbians of the 50s and 60s, I dedicated it to every Lesbian who has ever felt the hand of the police on her person. I think in some way, this is most of us. ▽

Letters of Protest can be sent to: Sr. Presidente de Peru, Dr. Alan Garcia Perez, Palacio De Gobierno, Lima, Peru

THANK YOU

to the women who have come by or sent us important moments in their lives, personal collections, special remembrances, newspapers and books . . . Thank You!

to all the students both in school and out who have had the courage and the privilege to do research on Lesbian themes and then shared their papers with the Archives . . . Thank You!

to the publishers who regularly send us their works: to Naiad Press, Firebrand Books, Metis Press, HerBooks, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, Lace Publications, Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, Seal Press, Lleyelyn Press, New American Library, Sidewalk Revolution Press, Avon Books, Shu Publishing Co., Black Rose Books, St. Martins, Holt, Reinhardt & Co., Beacon Press, Word Weavers, Womens Press and more . . . Thank You!

to all the authors and researchers, those just beginning and those fully recognized, who have shared their work with us, as first drafts, manuscripts, final versions and published works . . . Thank You!

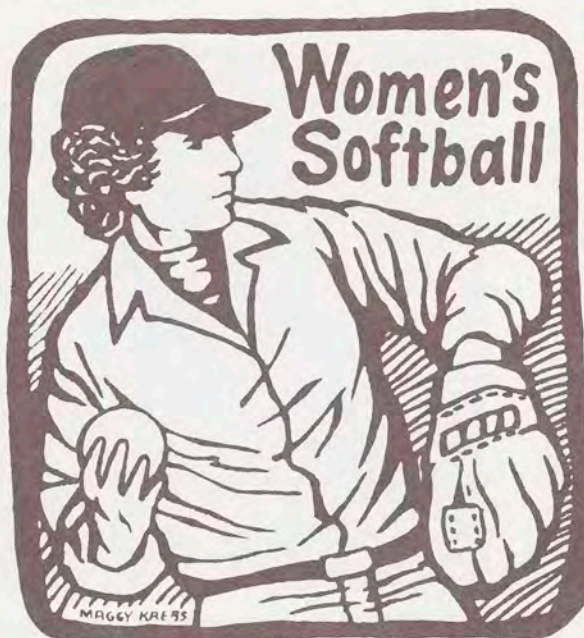
to the photographers, artists, video women, filmmakers, weavers, potters and other craftswomen who have donated their work . . . Thank You!

to the brochure committee: Jean, Leslie, Pam, Carol, Ruby, Polly and Judith . . . Thank You!

to Peg, Kath, Lee, Line, Shelley, Joie, Carol, Bet, Jee, JEB, Alan, Barbara, Claudia, Claudette, Batha, Celeste, Juanita, Edna, Sanford, Jane, Julie, Anne, Teddy, Susan, Annie, Hernan, Pat, Oz, Wendy, Anne, Frog, K, Dottie, the Women of WOW, Diane, Sara, Joni, Deborah, Ladyslipper, Elizabeth, Janice, Ilse, Deborah, Renee, Donna, Paula, Janet, Susan, Tangren, Keiff, Amy, Eric, Karen Kamato, Lois, Carrie, Sandra, Cathy Rose, Liz, Sherry, Goizanne, Sue, Jerri Betty, Marie, Margaret, Claudia, Bert, Aly, Abigail, Sudie, Luz Ma, Viv, April, Sara and Manuela . . . Thank You!

to the Canadian Gay Archives, the June Mazer Collection, the San Francisco Bay Area Gay/Lesbian Historical Society Archives, The New Alexandria Lesbian Library, The International Gay & Lesbian Archives, and all the other international and national Lesbian & Gay Libraries for undertaking the task of preserving our history. With you there we feel less alone and less overwhelmed with the responsibility and the enormity of our undertaking . . . Thank You!

And a special thank you to all the volunteers who have worked and continue to work at the Archives . . . you are all truly special women, THANK YOU!



The WOW Cafe beat the Archives at softball in the summer of '87—Rematch in '88?

Graphic by Maggy Krebs

to Lorna, Ann, Maxine, Anne, Jan, Claire, Jacquie Beth and others who have organized wonderful benefits for us and to individuals and groups who invited us to speak about our work and spread the word . . . Thank You!

to all the women who worked with us to keep all our dances not only successful fundraisers but delightful parties as well . . . Thank You!

to Morgan for pushing us hard to get this newsletter out before the end of the decade . . . Thank You!

REMOVE THIS WRAP-AROUND AND YOU HAVE
A POSTER ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER



A Dyke By Any Other
Name... 31 Other
Names, In Fact!

LHA Buttons

This design printed in bright
blue and black ink on hot pink
2" square button—\$1.25.

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: \$1.50
- #5 spring 79 Short Story Collection: \$2
- #6 7/80 Lesbian Herstory Sources; Special Collections Listing; \$3
- #7 winter 81 Lesbian Sexuality Bibliography; Special Books Collections Listing; \$4
- #8 winter 85 International Collections Listing; Poetry Update; Unpublished Papers \$5.50
- #9 2/86 12 pages reporting on Archives activities and projects \$3

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.

Please check to make sure that we have your correct address. We are charged 25¢ for each "address change requested," and Newsletters are destroyed, not returned to us.

- 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 @ 3/\$1. (Deb on NYC street)
- Send _____ buttons @ \$1.25 each
- My address has changed. Old ZIP code: _____.
(My new address is entered below.)

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

Mail to: LHEF, Inc., PO Box 1258, New York, NY 10116

_____ name

_____ street address

_____ city state zip

Make checks payable to: LHEF, Inc.

Order Form

Please fill out the form below to order copies of *Radical Feminists of Heterodoxy*, revised edition, by Judith Schwarz. Please make checks payable to New Victoria Publishers. Retail discount on orders of six or more copies, 40%.

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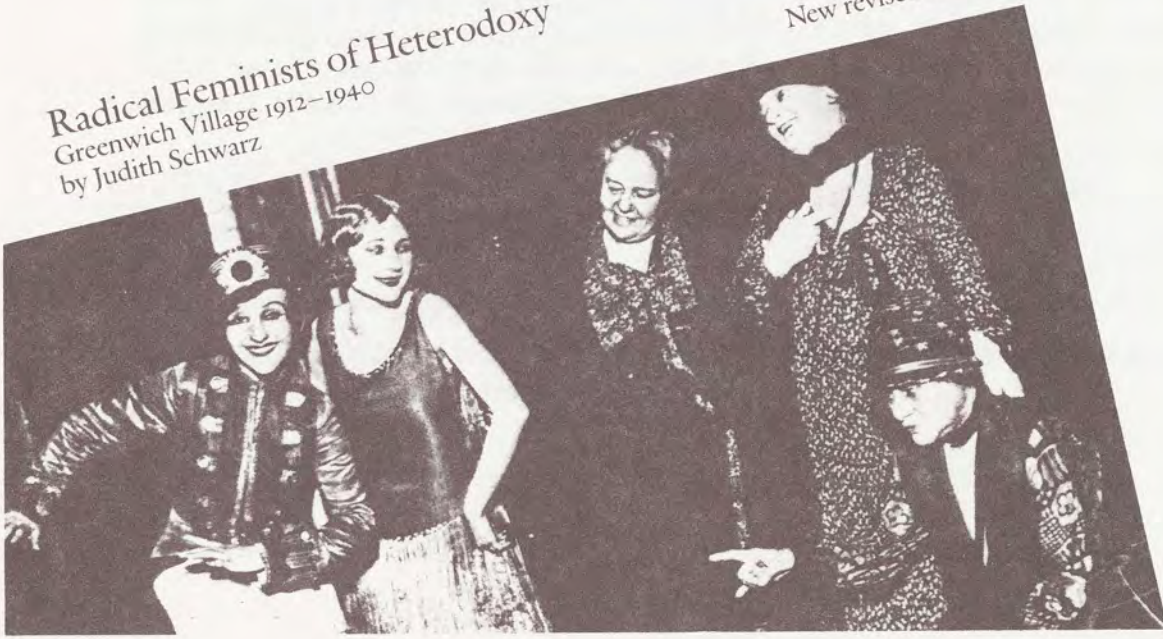


“Heterodoxy was a haven for women of widely divergent political views, from Mary Logan Tucker, a staunch Republican, to Stella Cominsky Ballantine, niece of anarchist Emma Goldman . . . from admirers of the Progressive Party . . . to the Socialists Katharine Anthony, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Rose Pastor Stokes . . . and from Crystal Eastman’s pacifist group, the American Union Against Militarism to military advocates and anti-pacifists Mary Logan Tucker and Rheta Childe Dorr. . . . Some of the members had been through scandalous divorces, while others were forceful advocates of women’s right to free love outside the confines of conventional marriage.”
—from the Introduction, *Radical Feminists of Heterodoxy*
(Judith Schwarz)

“No doubt you sometimes think of us as a little band of willful women, the most unruly and individualistic females you ever fell among.”
—from Heterodoxy Club album dedicated to Marie Jenney Howe
(1920)

Radical Feminists of Heterodoxy
Greenwich Village 1912–1940
by Judith Schwarz

New revised edition



Lesbian Herstory

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LÉSBICA ▼ HWAME ▼ לִסְבִיָּה ▼ LESBIËN
TORTILLERA ▼ ساجاتيه ▼ LESBICHE ▼ SÉVICI
LESBIANA ▼ KWE RHAME ▼ LESBIENNE
SIANGE ▼ LESBISK ▼ ЛЕСБИЯНКА
SAMTIKIM ▼ 婦 ▼ MADIVIN'N
KOSKALAKA ▼ 女 ▼ 𐌽𐌹𐌸𐌹𐌸𐌹𐌸
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