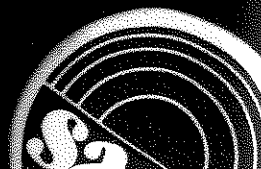
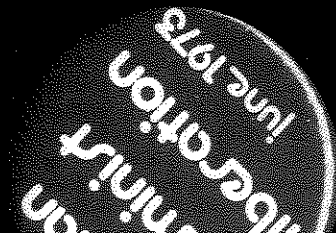
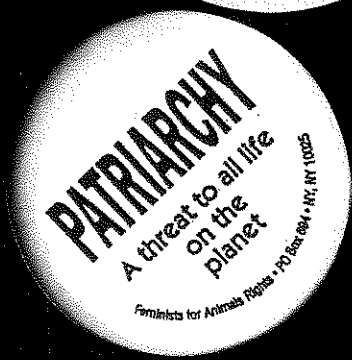
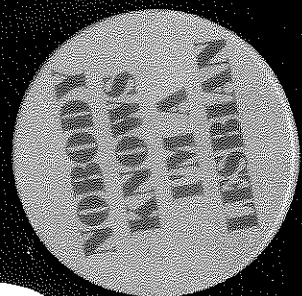
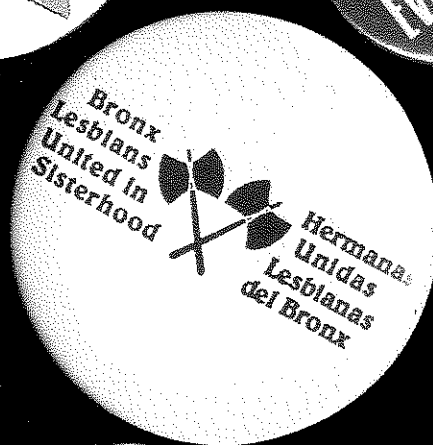
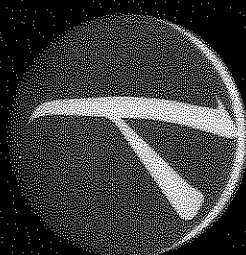
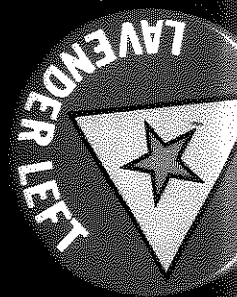
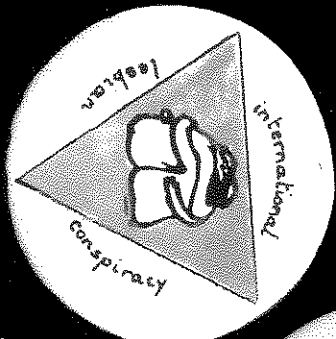
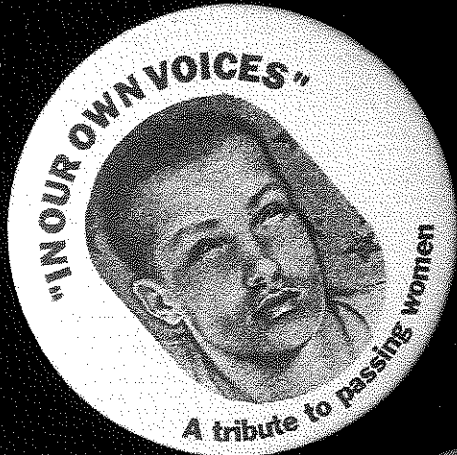
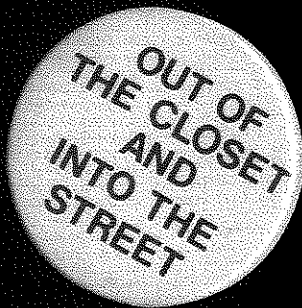


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# PRINCIPLES

## LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES

From our first Newsletter, 1974: The Lesbian Herstory Archives exists to gather and preserve 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 our lives, free from patriarchal control.

The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation is a grass roots, community-based, not-for-profit institution housing the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the largest and longest-lived collection of lesbian material in the world. Since our founding in 1974, we have been an all-volunteer organization, collectively run, with self-appointed coordinators

making collective policy decisions for the organization. For close to 20 years the archives was housed in an Upper West Side apartment in Manhattan; in 1992, the collection moved into its own home, a four story limestone building in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn.

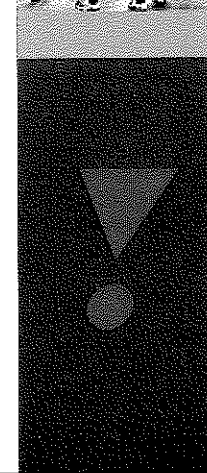
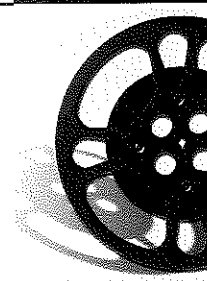
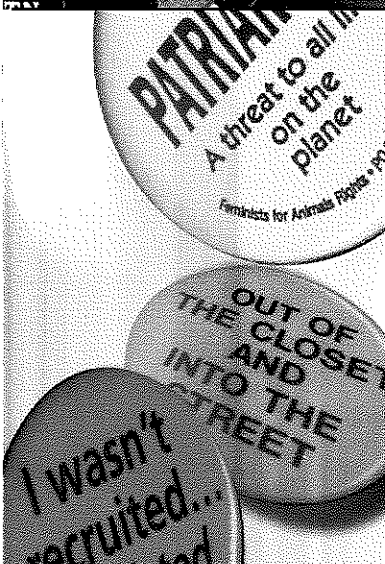
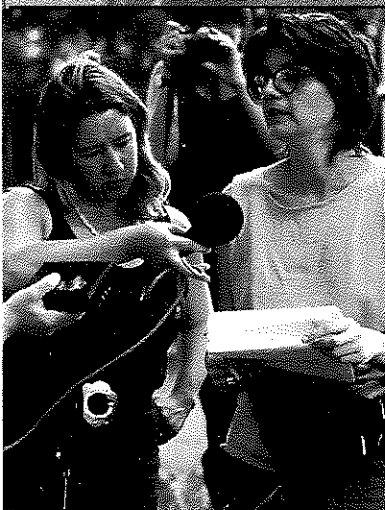
*From its inception, the Archives has been guided by the following principles:*

**All lesbian women must have access to the Archives. No academic, political or sexual credentials are required to use the collection; race and class must be no barrier for use or inclusion in the Archives collection.**

**The Archives is housed within the lesbian community, curated and maintained by lesbians. The collection, or parts of it, will not be sold to a public or private mainstream institution that is by definition closed to many women. The Archives is funded by individual lesbians, progressive peoples of all kinds and radical funding sources rather than by government funds. LHEF, Inc., is committed to the liberation struggle of all lesbian peoples.**

**All lesbian lives are important and welcome at the Archives. Every woman who has had the courage to touch or desire another woman deserves to be remembered here, as do lesbians from all places, from every country, from every century, and from any and all political and sexual backgrounds. The Archives aims to collect the full range of lesbian experiences, not just the lives of the famous or the published.**

**The Archives is dedicated to building intergenerational bridges between lesbian communities, to deepening the understanding of what the lesbian experience meant in different historical settings. In an attempt to demystify the archival process, archival skills will be taught, one generation of lesbians to another; the archives is a people's refusal to be forced out of their collective memory.**



■ LHA Coordinators: Amy Beth, Constantia Constantinou, Deborah Edel, Caitlin Featherstone, Paula Grant, Morgan Gwenwald, Joan Nestle, Saskia Scheffer, Desire Yael Vester, Maxine Wolfe, Lucinda Zoe  
■ Newsletter Editors: Lucinda Zoe, Joan Nestle  
■ Newsletter Production: Lucinda Zoe, Saskia Scheffer  
■ Newsletter Design: kiersten a. stein co. — 631.368.5040/www.outsidetheboxdzine.com

✉ LHEF, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10016  
☎ Tele 718.768.3953 (DYKE)  
☎ Fax 718.768.4663  
🌐 www.datalounge.net/lha

# IN MEMORIAM

In memory of the voices we have lost

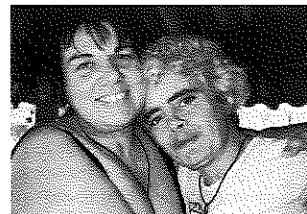


Photo ©1992 Saskia Scheffer



The Archives is a place to commemorate lost lovers and friends. As a people, we have been deprived of the ritual of public communal sorrow. Many lesbians have experienced the pain of silent and isolated mourning. Often in newspaper obituaries, a euphemism for the death of a lesbian is: "there are no known survivors". This is not true. We are each other's survivors. We hope that you will remember the lesbians in your community through memorials and letters to the Lesbian Herstory Archives, so that we may mark their deaths and honor their lives. This act of self-cherishing, free of shame, is at the heart of the vision of the Archives.

**Miriam Bottassi:** she founded the Centre Informaçoao Mulhr (Women's Information Center) in Sao Paulo in 1979. She was an activist who always insisted on the inclusion and visibility of lesbians in all situations. For her, everything was political: party organization, the right to information, women's and lesbian rights, sexual freedom, environmentalism. Miriam, seen on the left, with her lover Ann Puntch. June 11, 1947- August 4, 2000



Miriam Bottassi (left) and Ann Puntch.  
Photo © Maxine Wolfe.

**Jill Ann Boskey:** January 13, 1947- January 3, 1999

**Akko Atsuko Nishimura:** martial arts instructor extraordinaire, was killed by a drunk driver while on her way to the Hand to Hand Self Defense center where she both taught and studied. She was in the process of establishing an antiviolence prevention center for youth in downtown Oakland.

**Kathleen Martindale:** author of *Un/Popular Culture: Lesbian Writing after The Sex Wars*, SUNY Press, 1997. She died in 1997

**Dana Shugar:** teacher, author of *Separatism and Women's Communities*. 1961-January 29, 2000

**Anna Sosenko:** companion to Hildegard, the torch singer. 1910- June 8, 2000

**Joann Diuppold:** In the words of her former domestic partner: "I don't want her to be forgotten." 1956- May 13, 1999

**Gisele Freund:** partner of Adrienne Monnier, owner of Shakespeare and Co., a Paris bookstore. 1919- April 1, 2000

**Donna Griffith:** died on flight 800

**Karen Anna:** founder of Island Lesbian Connection. May 13, 1943- February 3, 2000

**Donna Davis:** April 1, 1945- June 7, 1999

**Leslie Evechild:** who lived near the Archives

**Florence K.:** We acknowledge the loss of Florence K in July 2000 and friends from the Archives mourn with Eleanor P., her lover and partner of 18 years.

**Ellen Corby:** who played Grandma Walton on the television series "The Waltons". Her obituary in the New York Post ended with "She is survived by her friend of 45 years Stella Luchetta of Los Angeles. 1913-1999

**Diane Whipple:** killed by her neighbor's dog in San Francisco. Survived by Sharon Smith. 1968-2001

**Ruth Ellis:** one of the first openly out African-American lesbians in the Detroit, Michigan community. She died of heart failure at the age of 101. Friends report that Ruth drifted off in her sleep. She was very peaceful and was able to go the way she had always wanted: at home, and with friends. October 5, 2000

**Lynda Lee Myoun Hart:** author of "Fatal Women" and "Between the Body and the Flesh", critical theorist of women and performance, high femme, teacher, beloved of Stacey, a devout Buddhist. August 23, 1953- December 31, 2000

**Blue Lunden:** born Doris Dubois, was a lifelong activist dedicated to social justice issues, including the anti-nuclear and peace movements, anti-racism, the women's movement and lesbian and gay liberation. She was a working class lesbian/feminist who cross-dressed in the 1950s as an act of unconscious resistance before the organized lesbian and gay movement began. She was self-educated, and her politics became clarified by her experience, the women she met, and the extensive reading she did. For the last eighteen years Blue lived at Sugarloaf Women's Village, a community founded by Barbara Deming and Jane Verlainne as a place where "women could walk gently on the earth."

A film about Blue's life, *Some Ground to Stand On*, by Joyce Warshaw, was completed last year and tells Blue's odyssey of coming of age as a butch lesbian in the 1950s in New Orleans, of multiple arrests and of eventually being harassed out of town for "wearing clothing of the opposite sex."

For the next twenty years, Blue lived in New York City, raising her daughter Linda as a single parent, becoming sober, and transforming her life through activism.

Blue was a woman with a wide range of interests who had the courage to be herself from a young age. She lived consciously and created community wherever she was. She inspired us all to bring about a better world. Her friends, family and lovers will forever miss her.

Remembrances can be sent to Sugarloaf Women's Land Trust, 19657 Date Palm Drive, Summerland Key, FL 33042. The Lesbian Herstory Archives has also established a collection of Blue's books, papers and photographs.

**All contributions, stories, tapes, letters or memories, are welcome.**



Blue Lunden.  
Photographer unknown.  
Courtesy of the  
Lesbian Herstory Archives.

The **GALA**



On Saturday night, October 23, 1999 the Lesbian Herstory Archives celebrated its 25th birthday with a gala event. Poets, novelists, rockers, comedienne, along with long-time Archives coordinators performed and appeared in front of a sold-out house at the Pace Schimmel Center for the Arts in New York City. The audience was composed of supporters of the Archives — some who had been to the Archives in its original incarnation in Joan's apartment, and others who just wanted to join in the fun and check out some chicks.



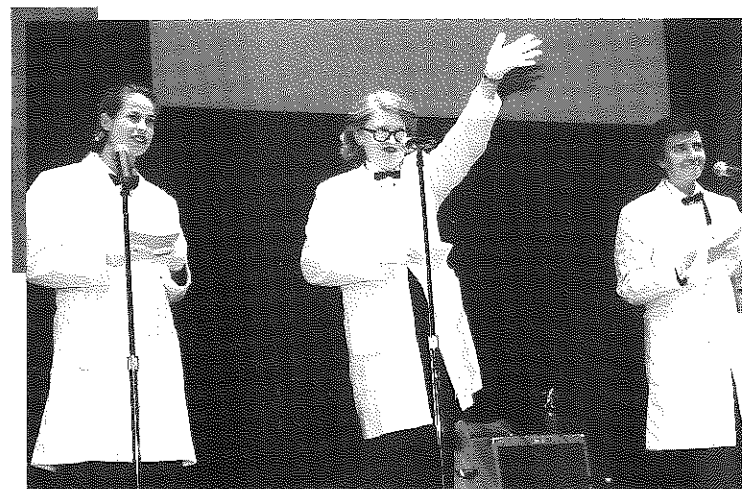
Deborah Edel.  
Photo ©1999 Laurie Rhodes

In keeping with our tradition of remembering, honoring and keeping alive the memories of voices we have lost, Deb Edel began the joyful evening by dedicating our event to Blue Lunden, activist, organizer, mother and butch. Blue passed away on August 4, 1999; we remember and honor her as one who walked her path with powerful compassion and integrity, recognizing the healing that comes from activism and community. Blue's spirit was present throughout the evening — deepening the serious and enlivening the comic.

We first conceived of the celebration as a showcase for folks that we would want to gather to see, a chance to shout hoorahs with friends old and new, and a moment to revitalize and reinvigorate our work with the Archives and with the community. Cheryl Clarke's poetry — which she performed more than read — reminded the assembled audience of the erotic power of the word. Even without her sexy voice, her frequently published, anthologised and performed work captures some of the most important aspects of lesbian culture and literary tradition. Alix Dobkin's mix of old classics and new favorites certainly pulled the audience together, mixing familiar radicalism with a taste of the cutting edge that music can give us. Three of the Five Lesbian Brothers — Moe Angelos, Babs Davey, and Peggy Healy — also served (as emcees) to pull us all together and weave something coherent out of this disparate lesbian community that comes together in the Archives and came together that night at the Gala.



(left)  
Cheryl Clark and  
Dorothy Allison  
©1999 Laurie Rhodes



(right)  
The Lesbian Brothers.  
©1999 Laurie Rhodes

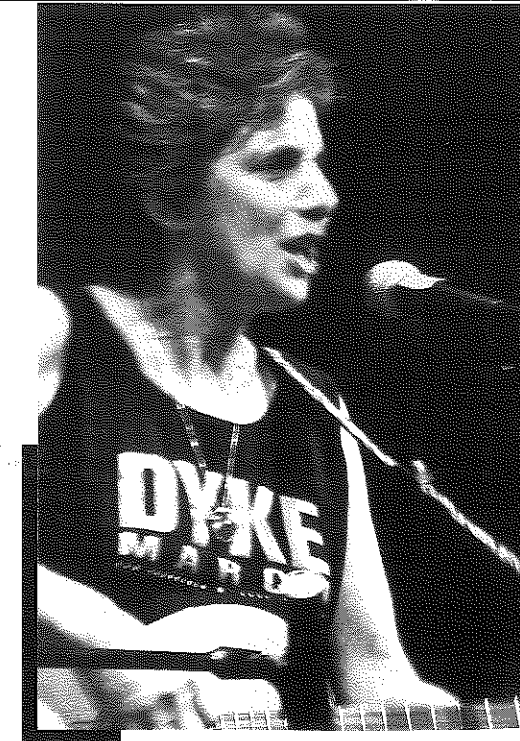
Nedra Johnson, a singer, songwriter and instrumentalist (guitar, bass, tuba- there must be more!) of Welsh and African-American descent and Gretchen Phillips of Girls in the Nose and Two Nice Girls, both performed short sets. Their music served to remind us of the range and scope of talent in the community — it also set our sights as an archive on thinking about how we preserve this vital energy of song and performance for the next twenty-five (or 250) years. The Archives is a wonderful institution for all the media that we can collect under one roof, but we also continue to challenge ourselves to provide events like this one that can't quite be captured- digitally, in print or on film.

Two other performances highlighted the special qualities of a live community event: Dorothy Allison's improvisation and the presentation of Deb Edel's tribute scrapbook. Dorothy Allison — poet, essayist, novelist- created a piece especially for the event, weaving personal and historical recollections into a poetic narrative about the Archives and the connections she'd had with the place and the women over the years (Watch in future newsletters for a transcript of this otherwise unpublished material). Less performatively, several coordinators — along with Joan Nestle who spoke via video from her new second home in Australia — presented Deborah Edel with a scrapbook as a special tribute to her work with the Archives over all these 25 years. Deb has been a hero to the Archives, balancing our books and our spirits for a long time and many women who have known her connection to the Archives contributed remembrances, poems, and pictures to her archival scrapbook.

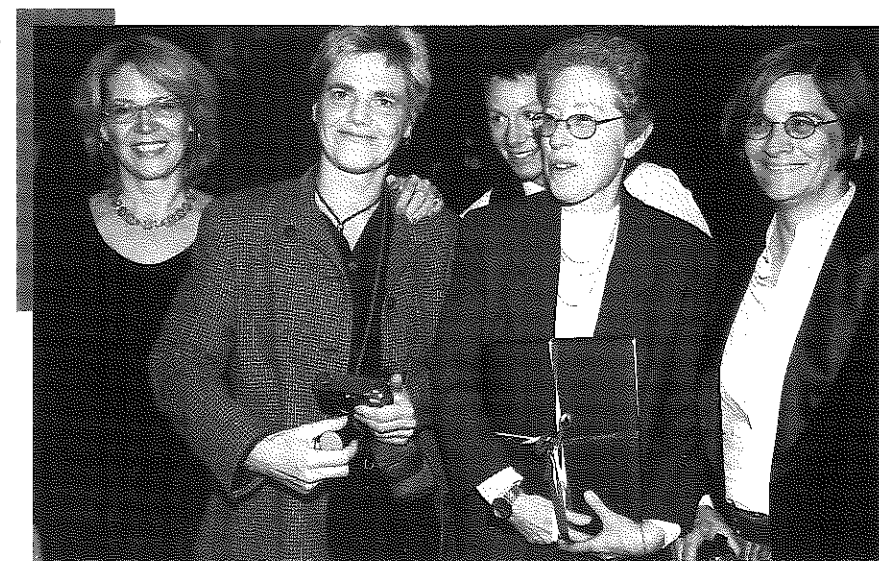
With all this live, fleeting joy and community gathered together in one place, we did also manage to premiere an original video (now, of course, housed in our ever-expanding video collection) by Jean Carlomusto: Sample of Treasures from the LHA Video Collection. This visual retrospective of radical lesbian archiving and herstory serves as an invitation to all those who haven't visited in our first 25 years (and those who have) to come make use of our materials and celebrate our herstory.

We consider our birthday celebration a success. Our heartfelt thanks to all our community and the performers who made this joyful shout possible. And happy birthday to other community organizations celebrating 25 years!

Sojourner: The Women's Forum; African Ancestral Sisters United in Sisterhood (formerly Salsa Soul); Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts (Center for Anti-Violence Education), Lesbian Connection; and The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.



Alex Dobkin. Photo ©1999 Laurie Rhodes



Some of our coordinators: from left to right: Lucinda Zoe, Saskia Scheffer, Polly Thistlethwaite, Deb Edel and Morgan Gwenwald. Photo ©1999 Laurie Rhodes

# REFLECTIONS ON "LADY UNIQUE INCLINATION OF THE NIGHT" OR- "WORKING FOR THE LADY"

by Jan Elizabeth Cuning

## Featured Collections: Periodicals

One of the treasures of the archives is this wonderful handwritten account of the makings of one of our most interesting periodicals. It really captures the spirit of the late seventies and early eighties.



Cover of Lady Unique Inclination of the Night. Photo © Saskia Scheffer

"Lady Unique"

### The Bridgewater House

7/31/86

#### Cycle 1 "The Matrix."

Cycle 1 was created in the cellar and dining room of a house in Middlesex, New Jersey, called "The Matrix." Joanna and Lennie, then a "couple," lived there along with three other women. Lots of us came in dribs and drabs to learn how to do paste ups and opaquing. We were extremely excited when at long last the navy blue silk screened covers came to be.

I barely read the articles; in fact, I did not read most of them until 5 or 6 years later. I was mostly happy to be contributing to something lasting and vaguely "spiritual" whatever that was. It was also real special to learn new skills.

#### Cycle 2 "The Lotter Show"

The cover was great. Barbara Young's poem was wonderful. There was less technical work to do because there was a little more money this time around and we could get the issue typeset. A lot of this cycle was put together in the furnace/boiler room AION, a women's counseling center in New Brunswick.

#### Cycle 3 "Cut and Paste"

This cycle was a disaster of sorts. The cover was meant to be stone gray, on which we were going to glue lavender and white webs. The 1st 250 issues were planned to have actual weavings which were glued on with great care in the kitchen of Jan and Ellen's Bridgewater house. Alas! The text came back, bound in a horrible green color. So, we began to cut and paste. We cut squares of gray paper, the color of the cover was supposed to be sable and onto these squares went the lavender and white webs, a separate gluing job from putting the whole piece onto the green cover.



We glued forever at Ellen and Jan's dining room table. Evenings and weekends month after month, week after week. We had contests to see who could make their Q tip glueing device last the longest.

#### Cycles 4 and 5 "Texas 'Ignited'"

These issues were completed mostly in Austin, Texas. By then many of the "ladies" of Lady Unique...had moved to Texas. Kay T. and Nancy had moved, Kay to pursue her PhD in folklore and mythology. The Texas contingent of Lady Unique became increasingly cohesive.

#### Cycle 6 "Bar Sweatshops"

And then came Cycle 6, the final cycle of the series. This was the issue on women's home altars, mostly inspired by Kay's doctoral thesis. This was a dual effort involving many women in both Texas and in New Jersey. A cross country cycle.

In New Jersey again the activity centered in the Bridgewater House, at one point in its herstory, named "The Vortex." By this time Jan and Ellen were no longer sharing the house. Ellen had the space and was generous with it and the same dining room table from Cycle 3 fame was pressed once again into service.

This time instead of glueing, we were engaged in a more creative enterprise. We were putting together miniature altars. Weirdest thing we had ever heard of! Sorting through strange items and putting a variety of items together into tiny plastic baggies. The gathering of the items was at least as strange as the decisions of which items somehow seemed connected in some way.

BJ created over 150 original miniature watercolors for the altars. We worked long hard hours, thinking up more and more wonderful and appropriate items to bring for the next time. We eventually called ourselves "the altar sweat-

shops." To make the altars, we selected seemingly unrelated items: words and phrases supplied from a variety of sources. Our favorite source of words came from old Amazon Autumn Conference flyers: sequins, glitter, plastic cows, coffee beans that reminded us of labias, kernels of corn, old keys from BJ's grandmother's house and lots of other items. All of the "baggie altars" were shipped to Texas and stapled to the pink and green covers.

Working on Lady Unique, being part of this communal work, was and remains a very significant part of my life. Not only did I learn numerous skills related to the publishing area but I made friends that have formed part of what I think of as my "root system," rooted as we are by a sense of history, of spiritual connectedness and of strong and powerful images of female dieties.

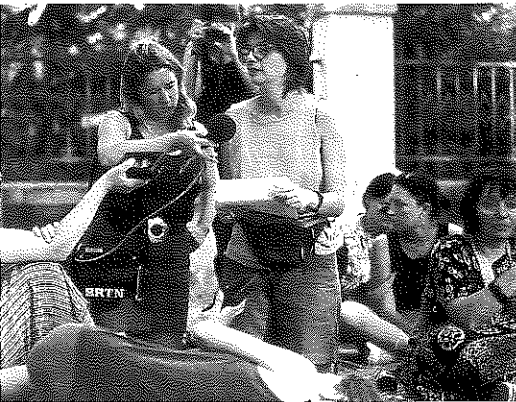
Enclosed with this far too brief glimpse of how Lady Unique came into being, is a packet of flyers announcing the initial Goddess meetings which ultimately led to the publication of of Cycle 1. To get some sense of the process one must read "Why We Are So Inclined" in the pages of Cycle 1.

Embedded within Lady Unique are other spiritual women groups: "Slip of the Tongue," "Mothera," "Oral Traditions" and numerous softball teams.

We encourage everybody who was involved with any of these groups to send us their memories of how the groups functioned, what went on in those days and so on. If you have photographs, or other memorabilia, please send them! They add so much information to the material we already have.



LHA would like to dedicate this international section to Lepa Mladjenovic, a Serbian lesbian feminist, women's movement and peace activist who struggles every day against the forces of facism and to all those engaged in the international human rights struggle for people who are sexually different.



Lepa Mladjenovic, at the International Conference of Women in Black. Photo ©1995 Lisa Kahane

## Uruguay

### "Conciencia de la Diversidad Sexual": Consciousness of Sexual Diversity

This was the main slogan for the 8th "Marcha del Orgullo" (March of Pride / Gay Pride) in Montevideo, Uruguay. The date of the March was Thursday, September 28 at 8 pm and the trajectory went through the crowdest part of Montevideo's main street, the Avenida 18 de Julio. Starting at the University, it passed by the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo (City Hall) and ended at the Plaza Libertad.

About 150 gay-lesbians-bi were marching, perhaps 100 more were on the sidewalk. The atmosphere was very friendly and enjoying, and this is in fact not so evident. Even if Uruguay is less catholic than other Latin American countries, the coming out as lesbian-gay-bi-transsexual isn't without risks of loosing jobs, having problems with the family etc., due to its macho-culture.

In 1992, when the first "Gathering del Orgullo" was organised, 13 participants showed up. About 20 gay-lesbian-bi-tra were at the sidewalk. Now, 8 years later there were more than 10 times that number.

Just behind a 15 meter long rainbowflag, the Marcha del Orgullo was opened by one lesbian and one gay couple, two by two walking hand in hand. These lesbian and gay couples were the most prominent symbols of the Marcha del Orgullo. Later I talked to William, one of the two gay men and he said "well, walking here hand in hand with Alejandro among all these people and rainbow colours, I feel so safe, so proud!"

After these couples, there came the very first float the Marcha has had. They got this from the City Council, and only had to pay the gasoline. Two members disguised as nuns had climbed on top of this float where they danced and threw kisses to the people at the sidewalk. The next day, the catholic church said it was a scandal that there were nuns kissing each other in the Marcha.

The evocation of this Marcha del Orgullo was "Conciencia de la diversidad sexual". The word "conciencia" is used both as "consciousness" and as "being conscious" by Diana Mines, member of the Coordinadora Orgullo 2000. And she goes on: "Being conscious is the first important step to start changing. We can only be proud of our love when we accept our own gay-lesbian-bi-trans identity. If we do so, then we can fight for equal rights. Sexual diversity is a normal thing in life. And at the same time politicians and the religious leaders must have consciousness of sexual diversity in order to make laws to forbid discrimination, to stop social discrimination as well as juridical. They have to be conscious of sexual diversity before they organise society as an

open culture where it is good to live together, where diversity is considered an enriching value... This is also the reason why we invite not only gay-lesbians-bi-trans, but everybody who shares our conviction that discrimination based on sexual and affective disposition is not allowed. And for that reason some heterosexuals joined the Gay Pride.

Gay-lesbian-bi-trans seem the ones who are most afraid, they are the ones who can loose the most. Alejandro Chiesa, another member of the Coordinadora says "we always organise the march in the evening because by then people have finished work and maybe can stay some longer in town AND what also is very important, by marching in the evening we give the possibility to those who don't want to be so visible. The night gives them some sort of protection for them. When we could do this f.i. at noon, at daylight, that would be too difficult for some." Coming Out is never easy, anywhere in the world. I must admit that I gasped breath when I saw people disguised and with masks in the Marcha. The fear for repercussions is very big for some of them. And there are examples of loosing jobs (Diana Mines lost her job as professor of photography at the Catholic University a year after she came out on TV, although officially, it had nothing to do with her coming out as a lesbian. Fernando Frontan, who was in the same much talked about TV programm as Diana, was displaced in the Bank Cooperative where he still works, so that he doesn't come in contact with their public anymore. Now also this job is, because of "reorganization", not sure anymore. A young man who was in the march had a lot of troubles with his family... One of the nuns on the float is a teacher. Eventhough he was very active in the Coordinadora, he didn't dare to take the risk and disguised as nun, with dark glasses and sticking plaster or a bandage over his cheeks and chin.

But there are no negative reactions on the sidewalks, more on the contrary. At the City Hall there were lots of people attending a music concert. When the Marcha passed by there was a lot of support. People were curious about what this so coloured group of celebrating people with float, music and rainbow colours was. They smiled and when the banner "s a las familias alternativas: union civil, adopcion, inseminacion / yes to the alternative families, civil union, adoption, insemination" passed by there even was applause and thumbs high. Before this banner transexual Jeanne Sosa danced while her mother next to her waved with rainbow strings.

At this moment there is no legal contract of living together for gays and lesbians. Marriage for gays or lesbians has absolutely no possibilities in Uruguay. A recent law project wants to regulate insemination for infertile couples, BUT it explicitly writes that it is for couples of different sex. So this reaction of the people at the City Hall was very important for the participants of the Marcha. It shows that something is changing.

"This Marcha del Orgullo is not only a fight" says Diana Mines, "this is also a celebration. We are proud of our love. We want equal rights, but now, on this special day of ours, we also want to celebrate that we are gay-lesbian-bi-transsexual. Well, we stand up and celebrate this wonderful love of ours".

For the first time the Marcha del Orgullo is organised in the Uruguayan spring. Before they organized their pride on the anniversary of Stonewall. But June is winter in Uruguay, with lots of rain and storm. So after the cold and rain of last year they decided, as most places in the world, to celebrate their own Gay Pride at an important gay-lesbian-bi-trans date in Uruguay itself. And so they chose for organising workshops etc. in June, when there is the commemoration of Stonewall, but The Pride or Marcha del Orgullo, as they call it, will be in September. September was the month in which lesbian-gay-bi trans pioneer groups has started (Fundacion Scorpio, Homosexuales Unidos, Mujer y Mujer and Grupo Diversidad). And September is also the beginning of Springtime, a new birth, with a new sound, a new smell, a new look to clutch together, struggle for our rights and celebrate our love.

And even if it gave me the creeps to see people with masks, at the same time I could share this incredible exuberant way of celebrating. At the end, everybody gave hands and danced in a circle for a while. And after that, the float was in the middle of the Avenida 18 de Julio at the Plaza Libertad, and there spontaneously built up a party for about 2 hours. Remember this is in the middle of the main street of Montevideo.

I can recommend everybody to organise her/his trip to Uruguay in September and so join this indeed small, but very impressive "Marcha del Orgullo", "March of Pride / Gay Pride" in Montevideo.

The slogans in the Marcha were:

"Coordinadora "Orgullo 2000 and all the names of the participating groups"

"Conciencia de la Diversidad Sexual" "Discriminacion es Tortura"

"Si a las Familias Alternativas - union civil, adopcion, inseminacion" "URU-Gay"

Coordinadora Marcha del Orgullo 2000:

- AIU/GLTB (Amnestia Internacional Uruguay/Grupo Gay, Lesbicom Transsexualm Bisexual)
- ATRU (Asociacion de Travestis del Uruguay)
- BGLTTU (Biblioteca Gay Lesbica Travesti Transexual Bisexual del Uruguay)
- CIEI (Centro de Investigacion y Estudios Intersexuales)
- EELMS (Encuentro Ecumenico para la Liberacion de las Minorias Sexuales)
- HSH (Hombres que tienen Sexo con Hombres)
- Grupo Diversidad

Lieve Snellings, October 2000.

## Israel

From letter, May 6, 1998:

Friends,

Many people don't know that lesbians constitute a significant proportion of the peace movement in Israel.

Recently, I was asked to light a torch at the Alternative Independence Day ceremonies in Israel. Since I also spoke about gays in Israel, I thought you might be interested in a translation of my words:

I, Gila Svirsky, light this torch in honor of all the Israeli women's peace movements: Women in Black, Bat Shalom, Tandi, Four Mothers, Mothers and Women for Peace, Bridge for Peace, Haifa Women's Peace Forum, WILPF, Shani and others. These are movements of Israeli women, Jewish and Arab, who struggle not just for the rights of women, but for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, particularly the Palestinian nation. These women have always been at the vanguard of peace movements in Israel, both in their radical views and in their creative activities of behalf of peace dialogue groups between Jews and Arabs, humanitarian aid to refugee camps, peace circles, street theater and, above all, the regular weekly vigils that have been going on for 10 years and today exist in various formats in 50 locations throughout Israel...

I would also like to dedicate this torch to the homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals in Israel, a group to which I belong, whose members exist in all strata of society, but which conceals itself in the face of the hatred and prejudices of others. There are many political views among this group, but I am proud to note that the women's peace movement in Israel has always included a particularly high proportion of lesbians. The time has finally come to make note of this important contribution.

To the honor of all these, and a state of Israel that will someday belong to all its citizens, I light this torch.



## Mexico

In 1998, Norma Mogrovejo and others launched the Centro de Documentacion y Archivo Historico Lesbico Nancy Cardenas, <http://www.lanetaapc.org/cdahl.htm>

Apartado Postal M-7459, Mexico, D.F. C.P. 06002

## Turkey

*From the internet; Excerpts from The Second Gathering of Turkish Gays and Lesbians, June 20, 1999*

KAOS GL and the Daughters of Sappho hosted the gathering which was held on the 23-25 of April 99. Besides these groups and Lambda Istanbul, gays and lesbians from various cities of Turkey participated in the gathering.

### The program:

Friday 23 April 1999:

A meeting concerning "coming-out" was held at Kabare Art House. Between 15:00 and 19:00 hours, there was an intensive debate and experiences were exchanged.

Saturday 24 April 1999:

We went to Ipyk mountain for a picnic near Ankara. 111 People joined the picnic. Even though the socio-economic and the social-cultural environment of these people were different from each other, playing together and entertaining from morning to evening not only created a cordial atmosphere, but also hope for future gatherings of Turkish gays and lesbians. In the evening people went wherever they wanted: to the Turkish bath, pub or both.

Sunday 25 April 1999:

Lyceum and university students made a presentation about "Education and Gayness." As many gay and lesbians participating in the meeting live their school terms in solitude, their presentation created big interest and excitement.

## Poland

Olga Stefaniuk wrote to us about the new Polish Lesbian Archives Association which can be reached c/o Women's Rights Center, ul. Wilczabo lok. 19,00-679 Warszawa

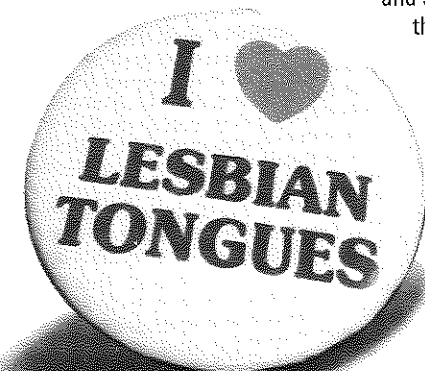
## United Nations, New York City

The Beijing plus 5 Conference, United Nations, June 2000

Because my partner, Dianne Otto from Australia, was a representative of a NGO, I was able to be present at the launching of *Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's Organizing*, written and researched by Cynthia Rothschild and published by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission and the Center for Women's Global Leadership. First there was a street demonstration in front of the United Nations where over 200 lesbians and their supporters from all over the world chanted their refusal to give up any of the Beijing platform and announced their continued dedication to pushing for the inclusion of women's sexual rights. The street was filled with this international gathering of women, wearing iridescent rainbow patches and speaking a multitude of languages. After two hours in

the street, we moved inside to hear an international panel of lesbians speak about their national struggles: Sunila Abeyesekera from Sri Lanka, Claudia Acevedo from Guatemala, Phumi Mtetwa from South Africa, Lepa Mladjenovic from Yugoslavia and Tang Suvarnananda from Thailand.

Joan Nestle



## MORE INTERNATIONAL VOICES

To introduce the international bibliography, and to put it into the context of the global struggle for human rights, we are presenting the address that Phumi Mtetwa from South Africa and Female Secretary General of the International Lesbian and Gay Association made on behalf of the Lesbian Caucus at the United Nations on March 9, 2000.



Weekly Vigil by Women In Black, Belgrade. Photo ©1997 Lisa Kahane

The occasion was the final preparatory meeting before the 5 year review of the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women, June 2000.

"I am honored to be able to give a face to the many and diverse lesbians from our caucus but also present at this conference, and all over the world. As a citizen of South Africa, I am even more proud to be from the first country in the world to have recognized that sexual orientation has a place in human rights and justice for all.

Even though a few of us are "open" here and in our countries, lesbians are still invisible even at this gathering. They are invisible because even if the 21st century is pretending to be the century of democracy and that diversity is recognized as an advancement for the civilization, there are some people who prefer to stay behind on historic advancement in the name of morality. For us who are open, it is difficult to even organize safe space to raise questions and participate free from persecution.

I, together with the women that I represent do not come from a special interest group on lesbian and sexual rights alone. We are part of movements that seek to achieve equality, freedom and justice for all. We are part of women and human rights movements in our own countries and supporters of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA).

What separates us from other women is the way in which labels have and continue to stigmatize and marginalize women who are lesbians or perceived to be lesbians.

But history is a process in which advances are the most important for the collective and thus we need to give recognition to the full diversities of all women as, for example, the Beijing's Platform for Action affirmation to women's human rights to sexuality free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

In our case it includes the possibilities to have access to all human rights, indivisible and integral. In daily life it is related to participation in social, political, economic and legal processes that NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) and indeed governments are engaged in. These would include ensuring that discrimination in the areas of-for example-employment, housing, education, health and welfare services, is eliminated. It also means that we are, like many other women, subjected to violence and in our case, on the basis of our sexual orientation as well as other factors.

The possibility that a woman who transgresses social and cultural norms can be accused of being a lesbian has the effect of chilling the expression of all women's sexuality including a heterosexual woman. In fact, the 1997 Report of the UN Special

# INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN FICTION

Bibliographic Series, compiled by Joan Nestle, 1999

Rapporteur on Violence Against Women reported that "women who choose options which are disapproved of by the community...or who live out their sexuality in ways other than heterosexuality, are often subjected to violence and degrading treatment....For women to strive to live and work outside the watchful gaze of the family and community is to risk becoming a target for male violent behavior."

Because women are beaten, raped or experience other forms of violence in connection to their sexuality, many are unwilling and unable to report these crimes for fear of further retribution (possible at the hands of police, family or community), and for fear that police will not take their cases seriously.

There is a pervasive sense that violators can get away with their abuses without being held accountable. The implication that lesbians' lives are worth less than the lives of other women threatens all women's freedom. Sexual rights are related to bodily autonomy and freedom of choice. This is important for all women.

As a South African woman, I am proud that my country abolished apartheid, a system that oppressed many and in which many lives were lost. We moved forward with the recognition that never again shall any one be discriminated against by the state, private bodies and any other person, on the basis of race, gender, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation and so on. As we rebuild a nation, this guarantee and recognition affirm that excluding any one group from the full exercise of their human rights would be as devastating as our history demonstrated.

South Africa is ahead of many governments. It is also, regrettably, ahead of many NGOs, advocates of justice and equality. In your work, Sisters, we urge you to continue supporting the Beijing Platform for Action, to see that we lesbians have a place in it...

### The lesbian caucus and lesbians all over the world, call on all of you to:

1. Join and support campaigns and initiatives aimed at abolition of all laws that criminalize adult same sex relationships because these laws contribute to creating a climate which encourages violence against women who are, or perceived to be, lesbians.
2. Support the introduction and developments of policies and practices that will ensure justice and expression of full human rights to women who are, or perceived to be, lesbians.
3. Tell governments and their agents to ensure that all human rights violations must be investigated, documented and prosecuted and perpetrators held accountable.
4. To support the call to extend the right to asylum to victims of discrimination and persecution based on gender and on sexual orientation because many women who have been persecuted on this basis are forced to flee their countries.

Based on the principle of equality of all persons, we call on the United Nations and Member states to reaffirm that a person's sexual identity or orientation should not bar them from the full exercise of the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

We call on NGOs to support this....The struggle for equality, peace and democracy cannot move forward whilst particular groups are stigmatized, marginalised or rendered invisible with little or no recourse....

Thank you,

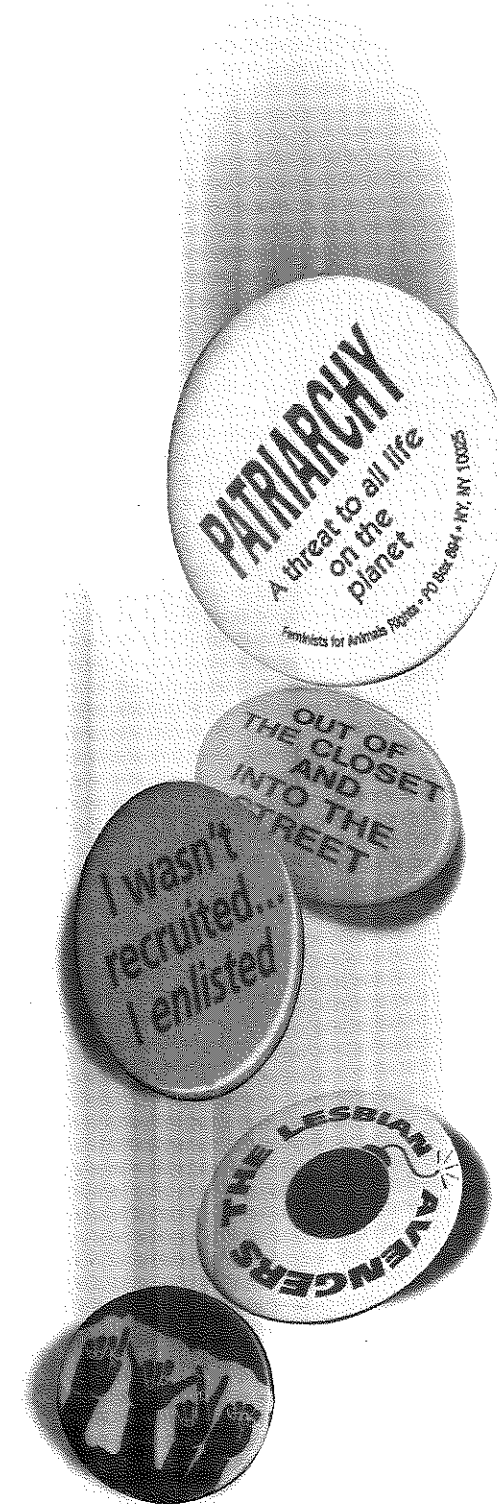
Phumi Mtetwa (South Africa)

Female Secretary General ILGA

9 March 2000

"Please keep asking about us. Ask about the lesbians. Ask for us by name — my name, the names of others. Remind them that we exist, that we're here and we're not going away."

—Rita Arauz, lesbian-feminist activist from Nicaragua



This bibliography grows out of a special collection on international lesbian writing and activism that Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, editors of The Vintage Book of International Lesbian Fiction (1999), have donated to the archives. All correspondence and unused manuscripts growing out of the collection as well as most of the books listed below are housed at the archives. This list does not include our international periodical, organizational, subject files or general book collection. We hope this list will encourage more international lesbian authors to send us copies of their work.



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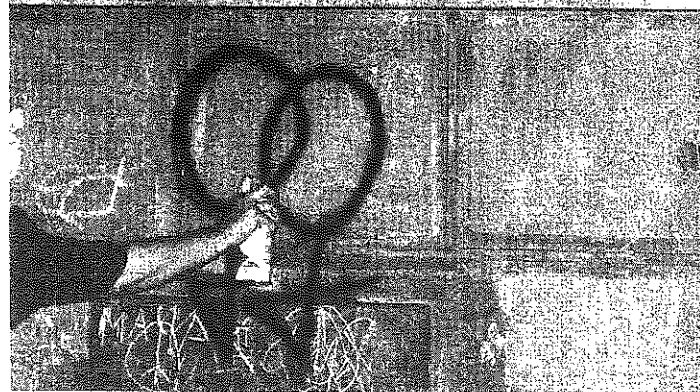
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Belgrade, 1992. "slavimo i zahtevamo lezbejska prava- we celebrate and demand lesbian rights"  
—courtesy of the Lesbian Herstory Archives

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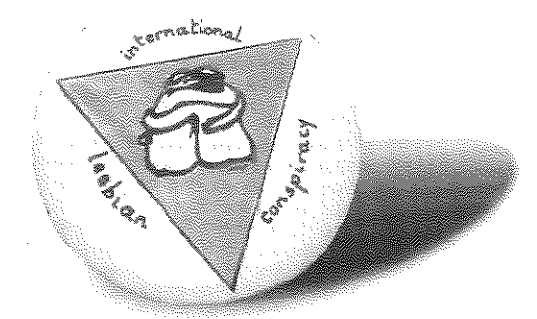
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## Organizations

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission—

1360 Mission Street, Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94103

International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)—

81, Rue Marche-au-Charbon B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

International Lesbian Information Service—

Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 68-70 1012 SE Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Perversions: The International Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies, London—

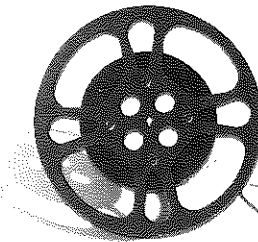
BM Perversions, London, WC1N 3XX, United Kingdom



"Family"

Image from our subject files on gay marriage. Photo taken at the Second National March on Washington, at the "Large Out-door Marry-in" event, March 1993. These are the names of the members of the group marriage unofficially known as "the wives." Photo ©Paula Grant

## ACTIVITIES



### Out of the Closet and Onto the Screen:

Video nights at the Archives: Fridays Full of Humor, Drama, Pathos and Sex!

The closet in the archives' dining room is filled with overflowing treasures on video tape. Some are sexy. Some are silly. Come capture history in the making! Many of these video's are one of a kind interviews with both the ordinary and the famous.

### Do you remember :

- the 1974 Pride Rally which almost turned into a riot and Bette Midler was called to come sing the crowd back into harmony
- the Eisenhower-era pin-up girl Betty Page, who is experiencing a come back now, apparently enjoying a spanking from a woman
- a Japanese female dance company which trains women to play male roles for the adoration of swooning female fans?

Sample the variety! The second Friday of November through April, we are showing a feature treasure, along with tidbits of humorous home movies and snatches of oral histories. Doors open at 7p.m., screening starts at 7:30. Free popcorn and soda; wine and beer for sale. Beth and Tally

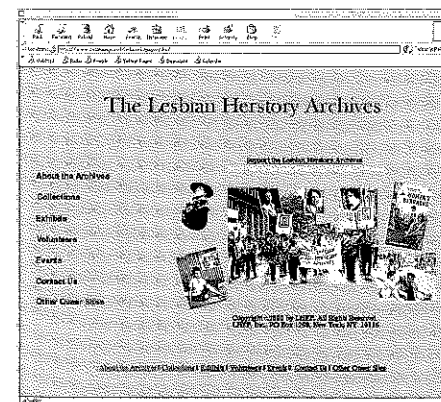
### A sampling of topics researched at the Lesbian Herstory Archives during the year 2000:

Audre Lorde; black lesbians pre-1960s; lesbians and the criminal justice system; male and female impersonators, 1950s, NYC; lesbians as gentrifiers or not; lesbian activism in Peru, 1980s; sexuality; lesbian community/neighborhood formation; Audre Lorde again; marches; 20th century lesbian history in the Midwest; lesbian feminism and lesbian socialism; lesbians and smoking; women's liberation and lesbian feminism; Barbara Gittings; direct action and radical movements; friendships with men and separatism; lesbians as prostitutes, commercial sex work, sexology, US., 19th and 20th centuries; lesbian liberation; women's bookstores in NYC; women's music, identity, and social change; butch-femme, passing women, 1930s-1960s; girl's orchestras, 1918-1925; 1960s gay activism, especially in Philadelphia; lesbian separatist, disappearance of feminist spaces; 1930s and 1940s lesbian fiction and narrative.

### LHA Web Page

The Lesbian Herstory Archives WebPages have definitely become a research tool to our community. Please take a virtual tour of our site, starting from the welcoming page at <http://www.dataounge.net/lha>

You may find information regarding our events and staff coverage from our monthly calendar at if you follow the link to events. And a click on "Collections and Publications" will show you how hard our volunteers and researchers have been working to create bibliographies and guides for your own personal interest, as well as your scholarly research. You will find comprehensive guides and bibliographies on: Lesbian Activism; the Pornography Debate; Marriage; International Lesbian Fiction; and African Ancestral Lesbians etc.



Be sure to visit our virtual exhibits and galleries by following that link. And are you interested in joining us? Learn all about our exciting volunteer projects at the Archives and how you can become involved in special projects.

Constantia Constantinou

<http://www.dataounge.net/lha/support/volunt.htm>



"Boring for a Blender..you might as well be straight" Image from our subject files on gay marriage

Poster ©Dyke Action Machine! (DAM!) [www.dykeactionmachine.com](http://www.dykeactionmachine.com)

# FINANCIAL

How we meet our ongoing expenses and get the work done

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

Volunteers do all labor at the Archives. It is a labor of love involving many hours of work by dedicated women. Our vision and knowledge of what needs to be done is great, but our decisions about expenditures are based on the actual income that we have in hand.

In the past, we didn't have to fund raise to pay rent, since the collection was housed in the apartment Joan and Lee shared. Now, however, we have to meet the expenses of the mortgage and the upkeep of the house.

We are given generous donations of books and materials from the Lesbian community. 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 is put in the donation jar at LHA, and at conferences where women give us dollars and change anonymously. Donations are made for the photocopying we do in response to information requested by mail or in person at LHA. We receive honoraria for presenting the slide show, and for speaking engagements we do about the work of LHA.

We do not charge a set fee but ask the university and community groups with access to funding to respect our needs. We often show the slide show to the Lesbian community and then 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 donation for our poster, T-shirts, buttons, and post-cards. 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 You Can Help

\* Organize a fundraiser or houseparty in your own community.

\* Undertake a fixed expense as your personal project. Contact Deb Edel to let her know what you can do.

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

We are especially excited to announce two significant new additions to our financial scene. As of fall 2000 we are formally set up to accept donations of stock directly and easily. This eliminates the more cumbersome situation which existed in the past. Please seriously consider this form of gifting.

We have also taken a major step forward by relocating our small endowment fund to an asset manager and are launching a formal endowment drive. This fund was established in the mid 1990's with a gift from the memorial fund of Claudia Scott, presented to us by Barbara Gittings and Frances Hankel. We recently added to the fund with a new gift and hope to see the endowment account grow significantly in the future. You can help us achieve this more secure future by giving donations specifically for this fund.

And as always, we appreciate whatever donations you can give us and remember: all donations to LHEF, Inc., are tax deductible.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR 1999

## INCOME GENERAL FUND

Donations General Fund	25,574.87
Donations Building Fund	5,150.00
Benefit	21,889.00
Honoraria	50.00
Exhibits/Photo Use	830.00
United Way/ CUNY Campaigns	384.83
Events/Parties for LHA	20.00
Advance for Gala Benefit	1,200.00
DOB Video Project	1,000.00
Deposit returns	1,103.83
Blue Fund	630.00
Grants/Trusts/Awards	
Park Slope Civic Council	250.00
Community Clout	655.56
Lesbians at Law	250.00
Astraea Loving Lesbians Fund	5,000.00
100 Lesbians and Their Friends	100.00
Run, Jane, Run	1,000.00
Leather Women annual event	2,500.00
Matching Funds:	
Computer Associates International	80.00
Chase	100.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>68,168.09</b>

## INTEREST

Chase Bank Savings Account	227.04
Chase Bank Endowment Account	214.05
Commun. Capital Bank Building Fund	114.60
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>555.69</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,723.78</b>

## EXPENSES

Books/journals/magazines	37.00
Parking/Taxis/Travel Expenses	492.80
Mailing Preparation	3,363.00
Credit Card Renewal Fees	160.00
Bank Service Charges	373.53
Tax Preparation	525.00
Keyspan Boiler Preparation	100.64
Governmental Filing Fees	550.00
Building Insurance	3,071.18
Real Estate Tax	572.62
Alarm System	2,825.00
Blue Fund Grant	630.00
Safe Deposit Box	140.00
Food	195.23
Gala Event Expenses	7,481.34
Ads/Listings	505.00
Building Fund Loan Repayments	14,500.00
Postage	5,895.46
Post Office Fees	650.00
Printing/Photocopy	10,061.43
Stationary/Archival/Househ. exp.	1,799.77
Storage: Pierce Leahy Archives	3,286.40
Ongoing Household Expenses	5,272.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,487.73</b>

Prepared January 15, 2000 by Deborah Edel, Treasurer

FOR 2000

## INCOME GENERAL FUND

Donations General Fund	12,951.00
Donations Building Fund	1,000.00
Benefits	260.00
Honoraria	75.00
Exhibits/Photo Use	354.36
United Way/ CUNY Campaign	766.83
Events/Parties for LHA	1,048.00
Deposit returns	141.89
Grants/Trusts/Awards:	
Amazon Autum	2,000.00
Community Clout	664.01
100 Lesbians and Their Friends.	2,984.43
(includes sale of Microsoft stock)	
Franz W. Sichel Foundation	1,000.00
TIAA-CREF	5.89
Donation from sale of equipmeny	3,000.00
Daughters Fund	100.00
Matching Funds:	
WRQ., Inc	30.00
IBM	50.00
Chase Manhattan Bank	100.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>26,531.41</b>

## INTEREST

Chase Bank Savings Account	350.22
Chase Bank Endowment Account	163.03
Comm. Capital Bank Building Fund	116.36
Progressive Assets Management, Inc	909.54
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1539.15</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>28,070.56</b>

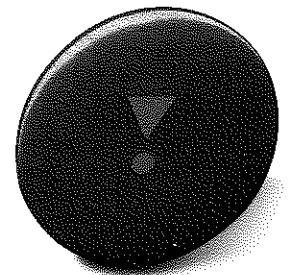
## EXPENSES

Books/journals/magazines	256.20
Parking/Taxis/Travel Expenses	1,026.75
Mailing Preparation	439.00
Credit Card Renewal Fees	160.00
Bank Service Charges	291.33
(incl. safe deposit box and check reorder)	
Tax Preparation	525.00
Keyspan Boiler Prep. and Contract	183.93
Governmental Filing Fees	120.00
Building Insurance	3,037.03
Real Estate Tax	608.41
Alarm System	2,560.00
Ads/Listings	300.00
Postage	1,648.84
Post office Fees	650.00
Printing/Photocopy	653.67
Stationary/Archival/Household exp.	1,562.27
Storage: Iron Mountain Archives	3,489.48
Ongoing Household Expenses	4,756.41
Donations to associations	110.00
HOP Registration	175.00
Keyboard	32.45
Photocopy machine	5,638.10

Handlift Contract	400.00
Internet Access-IDT	384.01
Photocopy repairs	115.36
Video film restoration	308.93
Computer support consultation	500.00
Household other:	
Fire extinguisher refurbishment	119.07
Handlift Motor	300.00
Handlift Repair	240.00
Air Conditioner	369.97
Plumber	125.00
Answering machine/phone	145.85
Electrician	85.00
Shelving	2,600.00
Lighting hardware	74.55

**TOTAL 33,991.61**

Prepared January 11, 2001/Deborah Edel, Treasurer



Lesbian Mother

SMILE  
IF YOU'RE  
LESBIAN

STARS & DYKES  
FOREVER

encourage  
SECRET SPYANISM

FOR  
DYKE  
TRIPAD

Coming Out  
to  
the  
World  
is  
like  
coming  
out  
to  
the  
public  
at  
work

dykes  
&  
dykes

Punk  
dyke



I wasn't  
recruited...  
I enlisted

I  
♥  
LESBIANS



another  
friend  
of  
ELLEN'S



GOD  
IS COMING  
AND IS  
PISSED  
SHE

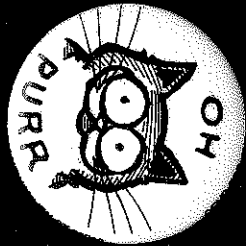


CALLAS  
Keep it real! You're not a lesbian just because you're a lesbian!

DON'T  
DIE  
WONDERING

Born  
Again  
Lesbian

LESBIAN &  
GAY RIGHTS  
Now!  
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