



Keeping the “L” Relevant: Archiving Our Lesbian Herstories

Zoom Presentation March 21, 2021

*List of Resources & Chat Notes
Revised by Mev, March 23, 2021*

Where Are Lesbian Archives?

List of Lesbian Archives

See the OLOC website for archives holding materials by OLOC & OLOC Members

<https://oloc.org/more-resources-for-old-lesbians/#archives>

Of related interest:

Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP)

<https://olohp.org/index.html>

Purple: Lesbian Legacies in Special Collections at Michigan State University

<https://www.purple4womyn.org/lesbian-legacies/lesbian-legacies-in-msu-special-collections/>

Southern Lesbian-Feminist Activist Herstory Project, 2011-2015

<https://archives.lib.duke.edu/catalog/slfaherstoryproject>

Contact: SLFAherstoryproject@gmail.com

Also see Sinister Wisdom back issues (93, 98, 104, 109, 116): <http://sinisterwisdom.org/issues>

Forty-Five Years: A Tribute to the Lesbian Herstory Archives

Sinister Wisdom Issue # 118 - <http://sinisterwisdom.org/issues>

How to Prepare Your Papers for Archival Collections

Recommendation: If you have thought about where you'd like to donate your precious Lesbian memorabilia and personal papers, it's probably best to check directly with the archive where you'd like to deposit your material. Additionally, there are some useful guides to follow.

Bay Area Lesbian Archives – “How Do I Organize and Preserve My Stuff?”

<https://www.bayarealesbianarchives.org/archiving>

From the Lesbian Herstory archives:

<https://lesbianherstoryarchives.org/donate/donating-materials/>

A Guide to Donating Your Personal or Family Papers to a Repository -

www.libraries.wright.edu/special/services/files/donating-personal-papers.pdf



Resources from the Presenters

Alí Marrero-Calderón

- Steering Committee for OLOC
- Acey Award Honoree from Astraea Foundation (2017) - <https://www.astraeafoundation.org/honorees/ali-marrero-calderon/>

Bonnie Morris

- <http://www.bonniejmorris.com/>
- Soundtracks of Sisterhood: Historicizing the Women's Music Movement - <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/november-2020/soundtracks-of-sisterhood-historicizing-the-womens-music-movement>
- *The Disappearing L: Erasure of Lesbian Spaces & Culture* (SUNY Press, 2017)

Deb Edel

- Co-Founder of Lesbian Herstory Archives - <https://lesbianherstoryarchives.org>
- The Archivettes - <https://www.thearchivettes.com/> (DVD available from OLOC Media Library)

Krü Maekdo

- Founder of Black Lesbian Archives - <https://blacklesbianarchives.wixsite.com/info>
- BLA Mobile Herstory Bus Campaign (Kicks off March 28th) click the notify me link on the Kickstarter page to get notified when it drops. The other link below is the bus presentation so you can get more information on the project! (see attached) blacklesbianarchives.wixsite.com/info/herstorybus
- There's an Archivist for That: Interview: <https://archivesaware.archivists.org/2020/01/22/theres-an-archivist-for-that-interview-with-kru-maekdo-founder-of-the-black-lesbian-archives/>

Mev Miller

- Initiator of Wanderground (*in formation in RI*) - <https://litwomen.org/wanderground/>
- Lesbian Power Authority Radio Archives - <https://litwomen.org/lesbian-power-authority-radio-archives/>
- A Labor of Love: The History of Feminist and Lesbian Bookstores & Publishing – Radio Documentary (1995) - <https://litwomen.org/2018/05/04/a-labor-of-love-radio-documentary/>

Sharon Raphael

- OLOC Research Gatekeeper - <https://oloc.org/research-criteria/>
- Author *“Coming Out”: The Emergence of the Movement Lesbian* (2019), <https://www.facebook.com/sharonraphaelP.hD/>



CHAT NOTES

During the Zoom event, several participants added resources and comments to the Chat Notes. This is a brief summary of those comments.

Music Intro at beginning:

You are listening to:

Teresa Trull – Woman-Loving-Women - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAP5T5GDMTs>
From Lesbian Concentrate – an early Olivia recording

Comments in the Chat:

Look Me In the Eye by Barbara MacDonald and Cynthia Rich

Over the Hill by Baba Copper

OLOC archives are at the Sophia Smith feminist archives at Smith College in Northampton MA

Correction...Ruth Ellis was not associated with the Lesbian Herstory Archives. I think she mixed up Ruth Ellis with Mabel Hampton.

June Mazer Archives - in LA (West Hollywood) CA (*See resources above*)

It is very important if you give your material to a university that you negotiate with them that there can be community access to your material...this is central and important because otherwise the community of folks who lived the life and don't have university connections can also have access.

Great writings in Sinister Wisdom about the New York LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES! Issue 118 (*See resources above*)

Great film about the archives- The Archivettes

Krü Maekdo: We [Black Lesbian Archives] will be in Arizona!!! Shoot me your info blacklesbianarchives@gmail.com!!! Thank you. We will be looking for tour guides too!!!

Bonnie Morris: My next book is about teaching women's sports history, out in one year...title is WHAT'S THE SCORE? Then a new work in progress titled RECORDING A MOVEMENT about my life in archiving lesbian culture!

[Puerto Rican Old Lesbians] Marta and Her Friends at Home in Puerto Rico - <https://oloc.org/2019-2/> [Go to bottom of the page]

Check out this video on the OLOC website- <https://oloc.org/2019-2/>



Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project

Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, started by Arden Eversmeyer. There are several books filled with oral histories plus photos. That project is run by lesbians.

<https://olohp.org/index.html> If you're in your 69th year and would like to be interviewed, go either to the website or contact Christine Pattee at c2pattee@aol.com

[Aganita] I interview and transcribe for the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project, started by Arden Eversmeyer and managed by Margaret Purcell. We have done between 750 and 800 oral herstories with lesbians over 70. We give each woman a book with her story and photos and documents and we share a copy with the Sophia Smith Collection.

Lesbian Home Movie Project

If you have moving image materials — tapes or film — Lesbian Home Movie Project is preserving, documenting, digitizing and when it's agreed sharing those materials at no charge. All we ask is any help the donor can give toward documenting what the material represents. We share rights during donors' lifetimes and honor donor's choices about how the materials may be shared. You can get in touch with us either at info@lesbianhomemovieproject.org or contact me, the editor, at sharonthompson12@gmail.com. In the meantime, best not to play or project the material & to keep it dry & cool.

Lesbian Herstory Archives [LHA] in Brooklyn

LHA in Brooklyn regarding books, we collect two copies of every book, one offsite. Any others we receive we sell at a book sale we have twice a year. These books are sold for a \$1 or so and we get them back in the community. Young women are thrilled to have them. So don't throw them out, send them to us and we will get them out there.

Southern Lesbian-Feminist Activist Herstory Project, 2011-2015 All interviews are archived at the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University. (*See resources above*)

The **Missouri History** museum has a virtual display currently in conjunction with St Louis LGBT history project

Anne Lister (Halifax, Yorkshire, UK) 1791-1840 the first known lesbian who described in detail her lesbian romances and 'marriage' in the 27 volumes of her diaries. The 'Gentleman Jack' BBC/HBO tv series is based on her diaries which are recognized in UNESCO Heritage.

One of the most treasured Lesbian resources in Colorado is **Vox Femina** in Boulder Co. Please include them. [Editor note: Internet search only shows the chorus in LA - <https://www.voxfemina.org/>]

Mid Intergenerational Lesbian Conference

Mid-Everywhere Intergenerational Lesbian Conference [MILC], A great lesbian group meets on Sundays at 4:00. Contact: lisa.a.lotus@gmail.com, MILC (206) 676-0023, call or text

