

Behind the Scenes in Women's Music & Culture, The Early Years, Part 1
An OLOC Zoom Event - May 27, 2021
Chat Notes



Curators/Facilitators:

- Margie Adam, 1947, Singer-Songwriter, Pianist, Activist
- Melanie DeMore, 1954, Vocal activist, Composer, Conductor
- Retts Scauzillo, 1953, Stage Manager

Presenters:

- Amy Horowitz, Roadwork Artist Representative
- Lisa Vogel, Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Co-founder and Producer
- Linda Wilson, National Women's Music Festival Producer
- Connie Lane, Stage Manager
- Boden Sandstrom, Sound Engineer
- K.C. Cohen, Lighting Designer
- Tam Martin, Artist Representative
- Laura Kolb, ASL Interpreter

At the beginning of the event, Margie requested we remember **names of those who did Behind the Scenes** work and to place those names in the chat. Participants added many names – including performers, distributors, organizations, publications, and many others. Collectively, we generated a long list of remembered Lesbians and events. That long list is at the end of this document.

Links to Organizations Shared by Participants...

- **National Women's Music Festival** will be virtual this year - July 4th weekend.
www.nwmf.info/
- **We Want The Land Coalition** is the nonprofit organization committed to buying the 651 acres where MichFest was held for women, for girls, forever!!! www.wwtlc.org
- All **Ladyslipper print catalogs** now online as searchable PDF's - accomplished by Duke - go to www.ladyslipper.org
- **Mazer Archives:** Los Angeles www.mazerlesbianarchives.org/
- **Goldenrod Music Archives** are at MSU Libraries Special Collections in Lansing, along with *Hotwire* and Michfest. www.purple4womyn.org/lesbian-legacies/lesbian-legacies-in-msu-special-collections/
- If anyone has any Lesbian home movies or amateur films, **Lesbian Home Movie Project** is digitizing and archiving them, info@lesbianhomemovieproject.org
- Women's Music Archives – collected by Kim Kimber & Kathy Lewis – are located at Sophia Smith - findingaids.smith.edu/repositories/2/resources/891



Publications

- *On My Honor: Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience* is back in print and on Kindle. Lesbian Girl Scouts: [On My Honor: Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience: Nancy Manahan, Lynne Tuft, Victoria A. Brownworth: 9781886231023: Amazon.com: Books](#)
Ebook keywords on+my+honor+nancy+Manahan
- If anyone wants to know more about women's music, please check out my book *An Army of Lovers*, by Jamie Anderson. All of the women on this panel are in the book.
www.bellabooks.com/product/9781642470451/
- **HOT WIRE mag** is online (PDFs) - www.hotwirejournal.com/

These are various comments made throughout the program by participants...

- I'm explaining who you all are to my 10-year-old daughter!
- This makes me extremely happy. Carrying what you all say to the young Lesbians who really need us.
- "If you feel that something is missing, it may be the sound of your own voice." - Bernice Johnson Reagan
- Thank you, Beth York, as one of the co-editors for *Sinister Wisdom* 104 special edition dedicated to SE Lesbian arts and culture. Available through sinisterwisdom.com/
- (in response to the speaker, Amy Horowitz) But WHAT a PEER GROUP to age with!! ZOWEEEE!
- "We are all looking for someplace to belong!"
- Also if any of you are interested, I'm an organizer of an International intergenerational Lesbian group. We meet weekly on Zoom and have a social media presence to connect. Please email or text me if you would like to know more. -- Lisa Lotus, lisa.a.lotus@gmail.com, 206-676-0023
- "Doing lighting is like painting with lights." - KC Cohen
- Loving this Wimmins music herstory...thank you all for all you did and all you continue doing. Much love and respect for your courage and strength.
- Yay for ALL the crews!!
- ASL interpreters were vital for me with womyn's music. As a hearing person learning ASL, I found the interpreting gave so much additional heart and BODY to the music and words and action on the stage. Made performances more live for me.
- I devoured *HOT WIRE* the minute it arrived.
- Kay Gardner was the mentor and friend who let me know that instrumental music also had a place within women's music. She located instrumentalists for me at NWMF, came to my performances, encouraged me to play with the Sunwomyn's Ensemble. Loved our work with Nuru in Philly. And thanks, always, Margie, for *Naked Keys*.



- Hey Tam, I still have copies of the contracts, photos, tech riders, etc. you sent for the women artists that performed via RhythmFest, Real Women Productions via Durham, NC.
- ... and remember the many not-well-known individuals whose names we have forgotten who produced small gatherings of local musicians, comedians, etc. in church basements, Lesbian dive bars, and wherever we could find a room big enough.
- YEAH for all the radio DJs who played Lesbian music on the air.
- The *HOT WIRE* archives will eventually join Goldenrod, Lisa Vogel/MichFest, *Lesbian Connection*, etc. etc. at Michigan State University, a Lesbian-feminist cultural collection.
- Mouthwatering herstory unspooling here.
- Retts the bossy glue! All roads lead to Retts!! Way to go, Retts!
- Thanks, Linda! I'll forever be grateful to National. I was given so many opportunities there.
- Another of Linda Wilson's claims to fame is roping me back into women's music at a low point when I had become too discouraged to continue. Thank you, Linda!!
- Margie ... Yours was the first women's concert I attended in LA ... '74 maybe!
- AWMAC always met at National - NWMF - as did the earlier MIC (Music Industry Conference). And WILD! Women's Independent Label Distributors Network.
- Zrazy! Yes! I first saw them at the Texas Women's Music Festival! Produced Zrazy in Huntsville, AL. We bought a billboard for the concert. They were terrific.
- We put on music fests in Grand Rapids, MI. I expect Tess and Susan Wiseheart were instigators.
- I went to an early sound engineering workshop given by Boden, and then jumped in to do sound at Ladyslipper's first Alix Dobkin concert.
- Boden is so crucial to Roadwork history.
 - Thank you, Boden. You gave me confidence, even though I really didn't know what I was doing.
 - Boden did sound for the Varied Voices of Black Women DC concert, as well.
 - Boden was the first engineer I worked with. She taught me so much.
- "The circle is never empty." - Boden
- "I just showed up and did what was asked of me." - Lisa V.
- I love hearing these stories. I was hitchhiking around the Midwest in summer of 1976, went to the National Women's Music Festival and the Mt. Pleasant Women's Music Festival that summer. Mt. Pleasant became the Michigan Women's Music Festival in 1977.
- "The music was an excuse to build a women's town and know our priorities." - Lisa V.
- I got to hear amazing womyn's music at Lisa and Kristie's "Lyons Street" party in Mt. Pleasant.
- Lisa V., I can't wait for you to get that memoir published.
- "A Well of Willingness" -- The Well of Willingness was so much better than the Well of Loneliness.



- “How do we create an environment where we can be our best? Women’s Music was a great excuse, yet the glue!”
- “...push each other and encourage each other... not live parallel - but live together” - Lisa V.
- And cleaned a lot of Porta Janes!! | (Bonnie Morris) I archived Porta Jane literature / I love that (and of course you did!) | Porta Jane literature was the best.
- And a shout-out to June Millington's rock camps for girls at IMA in Goshen, Mass. - Girls rock camps are great. They feel like a women's music festival.
- Many of the younger Lesbians are really grieving not having had the opportunity to attend a women's music festival or a Lesbian Festival.
- Olivia has been featuring several younger women who are fantastic; Be Steadwell is amazing.
- The younger womyn could create a new generation of bookers, producers, techs to help artists get their music out there, and new festivals to generate that unique creative energy that they foment.
- Pre-pandemic, BLAST/Empty Closet Productions was producing 3-6 concerts/year (including house concerts) in Palm Beach County, Florida..... women’s music is still on the road! Our shows before the COVID-19 lockdown included Nia & Ness, Heather Mae & Crys Matthews, and Alix Dobkin.
- Critical publications— *Paid My Dues: A Journal of Women and Music*, followed by *HOT WIRE: The Journal of Women’s Music and Culture* and preceded by *My Sister’s Song*.
- (Bonnie Morris) My archives are going to the Schlesinger, at Radcliffe, where Alix Dobkin's are (and others). But I also support Mazer, Smith, MSU and LHA, and Duke, in their collections. drbon@gwu.edu
- And Lisa, thank you for your comments on being together across difference - I am pasting in a quick quote from an essay I published in the Jewish Dyke issue of *Sinister Wisdom* called “Let’s not eat ourselves alive.” “Being in coalition requires recipes to survive the hurt we cause each other and ourselves. It demands finding comfort with discomfort, whether it means being called out on racist behavior; confronting asymmetries of class, education, and generation; or confronting asymmetries of power that may be hiding behind imaginary symmetries. Coalition across race, class, and religion is always asymmetrical and co-resistance is always called for.” -- Amy Horowitz



At the beginning of the event, Margie requested we remember **names of those who did Behind the Scenes** work and to place those names in the chat. Participants added many names – including performers, distributors, organizations, publications, and many others. Collectively, we generated this long list of remembered Lesbians and events.

NAME	CONTRIBUTION
Abie Abrams	NEWMR ASL interpreter
Alice Cohan	1950 March Director, Alexandria, VA
Alexis DeVeaux	MC and spoken word, Sisterfire 1982 and 2018
Amy Horowitz	producer of Sweet Honey in the Rock and Sisterfire
Ann Morris	National, Empty Closet Enterprises
Apple Island Productions	Madison, WI
Aradia	Grand Rapids, MI - Our first concert was Casse Culver and the Belle Star Band. Or is it Bell Starr? Boden was there, of course, and taught at least one local woman enough sound that she was able to do that work for future concerts. Kay Gardner. Alix, of course, who became an Aradian. Linda Tillery. Therese Edell and Betsy Lippett. Toshi Reagan's first out-of-DC area concert. Plus, lucky us, we were so close geographically to Michigan. Aradians did a lot of things there. I attended all forty and it is one of the favorite parts of my life. And now, OLOC.
AWMAC	Association of Women's Music & Culture Association of Women's Music and Culture (AWMAC) Archives and Manuscripts (msu.edu)
Barb Ester	with Jill Dark - produced a Cris Williamson concert in San Diego in 1975. They also worked with others to create the 1975 San Diego Women's Music Festival, 1975, beginning with building the stage! In addition, they distributed Olivia Records in the early days!
Barbara Edwards	artist manager
Barbara Lau	
Barbara Sherwood	Slice of Life Café, Rochester, NY, A Feminist vegetarian Restaurant which nurtured the mind, body, and spirits of many Wimmin for 10 years. Eat Rice, Have Faith in Wimmin.
Berkeley Women's Music Collective	Berkeley Women's Music Collective - The Berkeley Revolution - The Berkeley Revolution
Beth Berkeley	
Beth Marschak	Women for Women
Betsy Rogers	Wise Women Enterprises
Betsy Rose	
Betsy York	distributor



BLAST/Empty Closet Productions	Palm Beach Co, FL – Pre-pandemic, producing 3-6 concerts/year (including house concerts) women’s music is still on the road! Our shows before the COVID-19 lockdown included Nia & Ness, Heather Mae & Crys Matthews, and Alix Dobkin.
Bloodroot Feminist Vegetarian Restaurant	Bridgeport, CT- And the feminist Lesbian restaurants and cafes that also produced smaller events
Bonnie Morris	writer
Boo Price	producer
Brynna Fish	BlueFish Productions, Cleveland, OH, producing 40 yrs. of Cleveland Womyn's Variety Show.
Carol Kerr	Campfest Womyn's Music Festival
Carol Moore	Sisterspace Lesbian Festival .. Poconos - during the 1980s and 90s
Carol Seajay	<i>Feminist Bookstore News</i>
Cassie Culver and the Belle Starr Band	
Cheri Sistek	Durham, NC
Christine Pattee	Produced first regional women’s music festival, the New England Women’s Musical Retreat (NEWMR) in 1981 and Women’s Music for Everyone, Hartford, CT
Chi Hughes	Sisterfire
Cindy Fitzpatrick	High Risk
Claudia Page	
Claudia Rosenthal	distributor
Connie Lane	
Constance Robinson	
Cynthia Dunitz	
Denise Notzon	
desperate measures	producers of feminist culture and vision - we were a Lesbian women production collective based in northern New Jersey in the late 1970s and 1980s.
Dino Sierp	National, Empty Closet Enterprises
Dorothy Dean	
Druid Sister Tea Party	and Claudia Page
Fallen Woman Productions	Madison, WI
Flo Hollis	Women's Music Express, DC
Friday Night Women's group	Miami, FL
Gail Christian	Roadwork
Ginni Clemmens	
Ginny Berson	Olivia
Gloria Faley	Ladyslipper collaborators



Hazelwitch Productions	Houston, TX - A collective that introduced women's music to our community. Over a period of years, we brought most everyone who was performing to town.
Hera Productions	NY
Herizon	Binghamton, NY - private Lesbian club 1977-1991 hosting performers on tour and at the local university
Ivy Young	Sisterfire Coordinator, 1984
J T Mason	Rhythmfest
Jane Treat	Sisterfire
Jane Winter	Mellow Muse Productions, Lansing, MI
Janet Snyder	Atlanta sound engineer
Jean West	Slice of Life Café, Rochester, NY, a feminist vegetarian restaurant which nurtured the mind, body, and spirits of many Wimmin for 10 years. Eat Rice, Have Faith in Wimmin.
Jeni Martel	Richmond, Virginia
Jill Anania	with Barb Ester produced a Cris Williamson concert in San Diego in 1975. They also worked with others to create the 1975 San Diego Women's Music Festival, beginning with building the stage! In addition, they distributed Olivia Records in the early days!
Jo Ernest	San Luis Obispo County
Joan Dark	With Barb Ester, produced a Cris Williamson concert in San Diego in 1975. They also worked with others to create the 1975 San Diego Women's Music Festival, beginning with building the stage! In addition, they distributed Olivia Records in the early days!
Joan Mayfield	Richmond, Virginia
Joanne Abel	Ladyslipper collaborators
Jody Steiner	ASL interpreter
Joy Duskin	
JR productions	Miami, FL - Friday Night Women's group brought wondrous performers to Miami in the 1980s.... SOMETHING SPECIAL, Maryanne Powers and Louise Griffin hosted a good number of performers 1980s to 2009 or so.
Judie Pasternak	NYC in the 70s
Judy Dlugacz	Olivia co-founder
June Millington	Rock Camps for girls, IMA - Goshen, MA
Karen Clopton	Roadwork
Karen Kane	sound engineer
Karlene Faith	who designed the first ever college class on women's music
Kate Winter	creator of <i>Lesbian Concentrate</i> album cover

Kathy Lewis	Women's Music Archive
Kathy Tomyris	Ladyslipper collaborators
Kay Gardner	Womyn with Wings
KC Cohen	
Kissing Girls Productions	producers of the Lesbian Variety Show - Madison, WI
Konda Mason	producer, Varied Voices of Black Women
Kris Koth	A hard-working pioneer in audio engineering.
Kristen Lems	founder of National Women's Music Festival
Kristie Vogel	
KT Graham	
Ladyslipper Music	
Lammas Bookstore	
Laurie Fuchs	Ladyslipper collaborators
Lee Glanton	Producer, Campfest Womyn's Music Festival
Lenn Keller	RIP
Lillene Fifield	Producer 1973+ till now - Roseburg, OR [at 80 still producing when you are travelling the I-5 corridor]
Lin Daniels	East Coast Lesbian Festival, Hawaii Women's Music Festival, etc.
Linda Burton	Rhythmfest
Linda Jackson	Southern Womyn's Festival
Linda O'Brian	Rhythmfest
Linda Wilson	
Liz Snow	Ladyslipper collaborators
Louise Brill	founder and director of the Vermont Women's Round Sing for a decade and a half, a mostly Lesbian group.
Lucha	
Lucia "Kim" Kimber	NEWMR Day Stage manager and Women's Music Archives
Lucina's Music	Southeast lesbian production company - Atlanta, GA
Lucy DeBardelaben	Roadwork
Lucy Harris	Durham, NC
Luna Music	in Richmond, Virginia, Jeni Martel, Joan Mayfield (also of Labrys Books) and maybe others. Brought Meg Christian, Izquierda, Cris Williamson. Women for Women, Suzanne Keller and Beth Marschak brought Alix Dobkin for many concerts.
Madeleine Remez	
Malvina Reynold	
Mandy Carter	Rhythmfest, SE Women's Music Festival

Marge Keller	Slice of Life Café, Rochester, NY A Feminist vegetarian Restaurant which nurtured the mind, body and spirits of many Wimmin for 10 years. Eat Rice, Have Faith in Wimmin.
Marian Urquilla	Sisterfire Assistant Coordinator 1987
Marilyn Ries	
Marsie Silvestro	
Mary Byrne	
Mary Farmer	Women's Music Express, DC
Maxine Feldman	
McCabes Guitar Shop	where Cris Williamson, Meg Christian, Margie Adam, Vicki Randle, Teresa Trull, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Holly Near, Ferron and many other musicians performed...
Mellow Muse Productions	Lansing, MI, Sue Emmert, Susan Wittcoff, Jane Winter, Terry Grant. Ginni Clemmens was our first of many productions.
Mev Miller	Day Stage worker - NEWMR Radio DJ – KFAI in the Twin Cities - Between 1994-2002, weekly 90-minute Lesbian radio show - “The Lesbian Power Authority”
Michele Gautreaux (Etas Carria)	National, Empty Closet Enterprises
Michelle Crone	Rhythmfest
Moira Shea	
Mountain Moving Coffee House	Chicago, IL - for Womyn and Children lasted for decades in Chicago. At its peak it produced FORTY shows each year.
<i>My Sister's Song</i>	preceded <i>Paid My Dues</i>
Myrna Johnston	
Nan Brooks	
Nancy Covey	concert booker at McCabe’s Guitar Shop ... where Cris Williamson, Meg Christian, Margie Adam, Vicki Randle, Teresa Trull, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Holly Near, Ferron, and many other musicians performed
Natalie Lando	early women's music distributor - produced concerts in Oakland/San Francisco
New England Women’s Musical Retreat (NEWMR)	First Regional women’s music festival, New England Women’s Musical Retreat (NEWMR) in 1981, produced by Christine Pattee
<i>off our backs</i>	always covered the concerts
Orchid Productions	Atlanta, GA
Oven Productions	Cleveland Womyn's Variety Show
Paid My Dues	
Pat Cobb	Southern Womyn's Festival

Pat Rawls	Campfest Womyn's Music Festival
Patricia Howell	Rhythmfest
Penny Rosenwasser	
Persimmon Productions	Minneapolis, MN
Phyllis Bethel	Roadwork, 1979
Radical Harmonies	
Radio DJs (various)	who played women's music on air
Rand Hall	You Go Girl Productions in Tampa in the 1990s
Real Women Productions	Lucy Harris, Cheri Sistek, Mandy Carter in Durham, NC
Retts Scauzillo	Stage manager and all-around helper – many festivals and events
Rhythmfest	SE Women's Music Festival: Mandy Carter, Michelle Crone, Linda O'Brian, Retts, Linda Burton, Patricia Howell.
Risa Shaw	National Women's Music Festival
Roadwork	Konda Mason, tour producer of Varied Voices of Black Women booked by Ivy Young, Sisterfire Coordinator 1984, Lucy DeBardelaben and Gail Christian now Palm Springs Jazz Festival were board chair and Sweet Honey booking at Roadwork, Sharon Farmer, Photographer of early Roadwork and Sweet Honey events and served as photographer in Clinton White House, Penny Rosenwasser, Karen Clopton, Roadwork volunteer became a SF judge among other stuff
Robin Tyler	SE Women's Music and Comedy Fest and West Coast
Rose Norman	Produced Zrazy in Huntsville, AL. We bought a billboard for the concert. They were terrific.
Ruth & Jean Mountaingrove	WomenSpace Festival, Ashland, OR
Sandy Ajeeda	
Sandy Ramsey	
Sara Huetherr	Wimmin's radio, New Orleans
Sharon Farmer	Photographer of early Roadwork and Sweet Honey events and served as photographer in Clinton White House.
Shelley Jennings	
Sherry Hicks Glover	ASL sign language interpreter
Shirley Childress Johnson	ASL sign language interpreter of blessed memory
Slice of Life Cafè	Barbara Sherwood, Marge Keller, Jean West: owned/operated The Slice of Life Cafè, Rochester, NY. A Feminist vegetarian restaurant which nurtured the mind, body and spirits of many Wimmin for 10 years. "Eat Rice, Have Faith in Wimmin"

Sisterfire	DC - artists over the years: Joy Harjo, Buffy St. Marie, Alice Walker, Tracy Chapman, Moving Hall Star Singers (from Georgia Sea Islands) Elizabeth Cotten, IBIS, Flamboyant Ladies, June Jordan, Ethel Raim, Flora Molten, Retumba Con Pie, Urban Bush Women. The Sisterfire stage was a coalition space among Lesbian and women artists. Susan Allee now runs Middle East Desk at UN, was first coordinator of first Sisterfire.
Sisterhood Bookstore	Los Angeles
Sisterspace Lesbian Festival	in the Poconos during the 1980s and 1990s.
Sojourner's Wimmin Space	every 2 weeks in Kingston, NY, produced by many different Lesbians, including Billie Potts, Susun Weed, and Clove Haviva. Lots of Lesbian artists, mostly not famous, performed. Usually only 20-40 women attended, since we were not a city dyke community, so we couldn't get the biggest names, but it was Alix's home community. Kate Clinton performed when she was getting started, etc.
Something Special	Miami, FL
Sophie Parlor	WPFW radio show
Subie Brown	Ladyslipper collaborators
Sue Emmert	Mellow Muse Productions, Lansing, MI
Sue Fink	Not only is she a great musician but she taught me a lot about being an emcee.
Susan Allee	now runs Middle East Desk at UN was first coordinator of first Sisterfire
Susan Freundlich	ASL interpreter
Susan Wittcoff	Mellow Muse Productions, Lansing, MI
Suzanne Keller	Women for Women
31st Street Bookstore	Baltimore, MD
Tam Martin	Mountain Moving Coffeehouse, Chicago, IL
Teri Lynn	
Teri Upthegrove	
Teresa Trull	
Terry Grant	Mellow Muse Productions, Lansing, MI
Tess & Susan Wiseheart	Grand Rapids, MI
Therese Edell	Rhythmfest
Toni Armstrong Jr.	National, Empty Closet Enterprises
Tower Press	NYC women's print shop, printed many early women's music LP jackets
Urvashi Vaid	Roadwork board chair in 1980s
Varied Voices of Black Women	Konda Mason, tour producer, booked by Roadwork

Virago Productions	Denver, CO
Virginia Giordano	producer, distributor
West Coast Wimmin Festival	
WILD! Women's Independent Label Distributors Network	
Willyce Kim	early women's music distributor
Wired Women	St. Louis
Woman Harvest	NY
Woman Sound	
WomanLife Productions	
Women for Women	Richmond, VA
Women in Distribution	
Women's Music Industry Conferences	mid 1980s, at National; Dino Sierp, Not Just A Stage/Empty Closet Enterprises (Toni Armstrong Jr., Yvonne Zipter, Michele Gautreaux a/k/a Etas Carria now, and Ann Morris)
Women's Music Network	
Woody Simmons	Berkeley Women's Music Collective
You Go Girl Productions	Tampa, FL
Yvonne Zipter	National, Empty Closet Enterprises
Woman Harvest	NY
Women's Radio Collective	Santa Cruz, CA
Zrazy	