"Ira's 16th Birthday Party at a Harlem nightclub," part of the recent LHA exhibit *Keepin' On*
**Houseparties Build the LHA House Fund**

Funds have been flowing in from around the country to our Building Fund Drive. During last summer we sponsored a major initiative involving friends and supporters to host fund-raising houseparties or events in their homes and communities. The response has been most gratifying. From Anchorage, Alaska to Clarksburg, Michigan, to Athens, Georgia, lesbians opened their doors and invited their friends to learn about the Archives by watching a short videotape about us and to lend as much support as possible. Not only were lesbians helped. Gay men in Manhattan sponsored a Hays Day Party and a straight couple in Brooklyn invited their friends to support the Lesbian History Archives during Gay Pride Month. Over $35,000 was raised at 300+ events.

The variety of activities reflects the wonderful diversity of our community. In Tucson, Arizona there was a backyard barbecue while Fairbanks, Alaska held a ping pong tournament. Cherry Grove, New York had a presso and poetry reading at the home of a long-time supporter while in Athens, Georgia they passed the test for a project most of the women had not known of before the event. Denver, Colorado had a long-distance call, which was held at a new bar in town and included a silent auction as well as a raffle. And in a small town about two hours outside of Denver, one of the smallest parties was held, with some good friends getting together to view the videotape and catch up on each other's lives.

Beyond individual friends, a variety of organizations sponsored events and some businesses donated percentages of profits on specified days. Organizations ranged from the Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood to Westchester (NY) NOW, to Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors. Businesses included Womancraft (Pomptonvile, NJ), Eve's Garden (NYC), Golden Thread Bookstore (VT) and Tri-Flag Press (NY). We want to take this opportunity to thank once again all those individuals who helped organize and sponsor these events. The response from all across the country is one only more reminder that WE ARE EVERYWHERE! And now, more lesbians everywhere are becoming familiar with the Archives and our goals.

Our most pressing goal at this time is to raise the funds for the purchase of our own building. Our collection is absolutely overflowing in Joan Nestle's New York City apartment and we are anxious to give it back to Joan. She has so generously shared it with the Archives for over 15 years. Because we are not optimistic about obtaining a mortgage, we want to buy a building outright and also be able to make the necessary physical improvements to insure accessibility and to properly maintain the collection, i.e., temperature and humidity control, reinforcements to hold the tremendous weight of books and boxes, and access for physically challenged women.

We are hoping to take advantage of the current downturn in New York real estate by locating a house before the end of June. With $100,000 in our building fund as we go to press, we are looking at buildings in the $300,000 to $500,000 range. While the building we end up with at this time may not have everything we had hoped for, by purchasing now we will be able to sell the building in five to ten years and be able to move to a permanent location.

The intent of this newsletter talks about how you can help through tax deductible donations or interest earning long term loans. You can also help by holding a houseparty in your community. Based on the response from last year's hosts, this is a great way to support the Archives and enjoy yourself. If you would like to learn more about hosting a fund-raiser, call (212) 874-7232 or leave a message, or write us at PO Box 1256, New York, New York 10116.

— Beth Levine

**LHA Coordinators**

The Lesbian History Archives has reorganized its internal structure over the past year. Most of you are familiar with the three long-time Archives coordinators — Joan Nestle, Deb Edel, and Judith Schwarz — who have dedicated nothing less than their lives to the Archives. Joan and Deb, along with the two other women, co-founded the Archives in 1973 and 1974 as a project that grew out of a Gay Academic Union consciousness-raising group. Judith joined them in 1978 as a third full-time devotee. Mabel Hampton, who died in October 1989 at the age of 87, served as the inspiration and guiding light for the Archives, offering her library, labor, and wisdom to the Archives’ formation and growth.

Joan, Deb, Judith, and Mabel have contributed extraordinarily to the Archives. In addition to their efforts, the Archives has always been staffed and maintained by a group of devoted volunteers, each contributing as she can. Over the past few years the Archives has grown tremendously. So too, fortunately, have the number of volunteers willing to shoulder the substantial responsibilities that sustain the Archives.

The Archives is now governed by a coordinating committee of dedicated Archives volunteers. The committee meets monthly to touch base on many projects — loan fund-raising and house-hunting efforts to periodicals check-in procedures. Each of the coordinators has taken on special areas of responsibility, for both the long and short term. Any Archives volunteer is welcome to attend coordinating committee meetings and, when and if able and willing to do so, she may take on a responsibility or other special project. In addition to maintaining the collection and helping visitors with research questions, all of the coordinators are busy now with the mechanics of fund raising and finding a building.

Current LHA Coordinators — their professions and time with the Archives:

- Joan Nestle, writer, editor, teacher, LHA co-founder
- Deborah Edel, Social Worker, LHA co-founder
- Judith Schwarz, 1979 records manager, writer
- Amy Beth, 1977 librarian
- Beth Haskell, 1982 computer services
- Beth Levine, 1978 school administrator
- Janet (JJP) Proelman, 1988 intern

**Archives T-Shirts**

Last year we designed a new Archives T-shirt in order to further promote Lesbian history. They are, naturally, 100% cotton and we have tried our best to make them available via bookstores and small stores willing to take them on. We have, however, after a year of attempting to ship small orders, found a wonderful Lesbian owned and operated mail order business to relieve us of this added responsibility. We met Joy Revelle of Dragonfly Graphics & OUT-er Wear last summer at the East Coast Lesbian Festival. This dragonfly Graphics is now going to be offering our T-shirts on a regular basis.

For the record, Dragonfly began as an artists studio over fifteen years ago and has been Lesbian owned since its inception. Today, Dragonfly is a custom wholesale screen printing business. OUT-er Wear is a mail order business for Lesbians and Gay men and is an offshoot at Dragonfly. For more information on ordering Archives T-shirts or to get a copy of their catalog, write or call: Dragonfly Graphics, 19 S.W. 2nd St., Gainesville, FL. 32601. 1-800-105-6324.

— Loni Goodman, 1988 health services

Lucinda Zee, 1989 librarian, cook

Marlynn Lugaras, 1988

Maxine Wolfe, 1984 psychology professor

Melissa Solomon, 1980 publishing

Monica Neal, 1989 legal assistant

Morgan Greenwald, 1980 social worker, photographer

Nancy Froehlich, 1990 librarian

Polly Thistlethwaite, 1986 librarian

Sharon Carroll, 1991 graphic designer

**Lesbian History Archives Newsletter #12 – June 1991**

— 21911 Lesbian History Educational Foundation, Inc.

— LHA, Inc., PO Box 1256, New York, NY 10116 (212) 674-7202

— LHA Coordinators: Joan Nestle, Deborah Edel, Judith Schwarz, Amy Beth, Beth Haskell, Beth Levine, Janet Freeman, Loni Goodman, Luda Zee, Marlynn Lugaras, Maxine Wolfe, Melissa Solomon, Monica Neal, Morgan Greenwald, Nancy Froehlich, Polly Thistlethwaite, and Sharon Carroll

— Newsletter Production: Beth Hassan, Jan Roney, Morgan Greenwald, and Sharon Carroll.

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The Archives Acquires its Oldest Original Newspaper

The Archives recently received an original copy of the March 10, 1931 issue of the National Gazette, a popular Philadelphian daily newspaper. It contains a goodbye letter page counting to unknown writer's visit to the "Ladies of Upland," Lady Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby. Guided by their titled Irish families, they lived together in Wales for the better part of their lives.

The Ladies' lives are documented in Eleanor's diary, begun in 1780 and kept until her death some 42 years later. It was published in part by Macmillan in 1930. Two years later, Cotula published a companion volume, "The Real People of Wales" in 1870 and in 1880 Mary Gordon's "The Chase of the Fox" reinforced the ladies' place in an emerging nation of popular women's magazines. Modern readers might know best how this legendary couple from St. Elizabeth Mayer's "The Ladies of Upland" published in 1971 or Darius Grumbach's critically acclaimed historical fiction, "The Ladies," published in 1994.

The Archives' 1931 newspaper account attention to the ladies' traditional behavior as "curious" for some and undoubtedly as heroines for others, in their own time as well as ours.

Description of a Raid on a Lesbian Bar Called MaryAngela's on 7th Avenue South in the Village, Which Is Now a Jazz Club Called 7th Avenue South. A first-hand account by Peg B. from Lesbian Heritage Archives Document Collection

This happened on a Friday night in the think, March 1964. It was one of the raids I heard about in which lesbians were arrested and there were a good many before this. This was the only one that I was involved with. There was a new bar and my lover and I decided to check it out. It was quite a new place, and not many of them had been accosted so far.

We had just eaten at a table, ordered a couple of beers and had a drink when a man appeared in the doorway and said "This is a raid." We were taken downstairs and into the paddly wagon. A couple of women hid inside a stable in one of the back rooms and escaped, but the rest of the about 43 women, almost all of them in the paddly wagon. As we were pilving to the police house, one woman on our I.D.'s - her driver's license. A kind of dramatic thing to do.

We didn't have any I.D. and we didn't have anything to do through that. They took us 2 a 4 a night, to Charlie Street station. We didn't know whether to give our right names or not, because we were afraid if we didn't, we might be in worse trouble. Some of us gave our right names and some of us gave names like Sarah Johnson.

We were held in a big room for a long time, just sitting around, didn't know what was going on. We were eventually allowed to speak phone calls, one per person. Then we were taken two at a time into a little room and police women searched us. We had to take off our clothes, pull down our underwear and hand over. It was all very humiliating, and upsetting. Then we were taken back into the big room, and a few at a time taken away for the night to some other place. I was able to get into a public paddly wagon with my lover.

The police were pretty hasty and they were giving us all kinds of misinformation - telling us that we would be held over the weekend and stuff like that. A lot of women were very upset because they didn't know they would have to call their parents and take them to court. We were taken to 30 St. Street, where I see a kind of hard to figure out where we were. There were little bays in the back of the paddly wagon and it was trying to pour through but it was hard to find out where we were going. We were put two in a cell and my lover and I weren't able to get into the same cell. Cells were very small and there was a toilet in the back and a washing machine and a toilet which was barely big enough for two in this very close, that was it. There was no air and it was very, very stuffy. That was March and it was cold out. I think if it had been warm it would have been very uncomfortable. The cells were facing each other and my lover had to go in the bathroom. She was from New England and was very shy about that kind of thing and she really suffered when she had to. I stood in front of her and she tried and tried to cover her up but I could only somehow get through the night - from a little.

In the morning they brought us some bread and some coffee - waxy coffee which they charged us for. I think they charged a dollar each and one woman gave them five dollars and never got change back. There were two, we went into the back of the paddly wagon again and so to court and on the way out of there we had to pass a store that was open on the stairs. They were either coming in or going off their shift and they really like running the garbage because they all made comments as we went by, jeered, and made nasty cracks. We were feeling pretty guilty and scared and it was pretty hard to take. They took us downtown to the court and they held us in a very unappetizing, hot holding cell before the judge - and it was another very stuffy room, very overcrowded. There was an open roof in the back. One of the women had diarrhoea and she had to go and she just felt too embarrassed. So we held up coats around her and tried to cover up her feelings and tried to make ourselves feel better.

Finally we were called out and our names were rapped and we stood before the judge. He had a legal aid lawyer I believe. The charges were disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace, which was pretty funny because we were just sitting in a bar having a beer. A detective told the judge that these were women dancing together. The judge asked him if he could point out which women were dancing together and the detective told him no. The judge said "Cats dunsmen." We saw some people in the crowd that we knew but we didn't even stop to talk to them. We just got out of there and we ran for about half an hour. When we ran home we felt so Ticky because we had been about another half hour and took the phone off the hook. We just lay in bed and we didn't even have a talk together. I think the way I got through it, probably like quite a few other people, was by just removing myself and it was a freely for a while which was probably worse of my own body. It was like it was happening to someone else and not to me.
SO MANY WOMEN, SO MUCH TO DO

The Lesbian Herstory Archives' yearly financial report shows the income received from donations and grants as well as money spent for things such as postage and printing services. But a giant part of our budget cannot be expressed in dollars and cents — the tremendous time and effort donated by the diverse group of volunteers who process the collection, keep the doors open for researchers and visitors, raise funds, produce and host events, hunt for the Archives' new home, and stuff the many envelopes necessary to keep in touch with lesbians around the world.

Other stories in this newsletter will give witness to some of these efforts: for example, the growing building fund and the powerful exhibits celebrating black lesbians and Audre Lorde. The building fund benefitted this year from an extended family of volunteers from across the U.S., hosting house parties and other fund-raising events. Regular Archives volunteers designed and produced the flyers and videos, contacted the various hosts and put together the packages of fund-raising materials. Volunteers were also responsible for developing, mounting, and hosting the photography exhibits. Major projects like these rely on the extraordinary dedication of their coordinators and the generous help of every volunteer.

Join us past, the day-to-day work of the Archives continues. A variety of women show up for our weekly Thursday work nights. Some fall away now and new arrivals will ask questions of some of us. The Archives is small, but we are on the same floor as a building run by a hotel, one that is a small one, where their computer is being used. Sometimes we talk about the computer in the work room, adding new names to the mailing list or making corrections. Some volunteers have new projects or collections that they work on every weekend, others simply do what needs to be done. This year most of the volunteer efforts are concentrated on finding a permanent space for the collection. A focused group of women are scouring possible neighborhoods, talking to landlords, studying zoning laws, and planning for the financial responsibilities ahead. Once a site is selected, we face the massive task of preparing the new space and moving the collection.

Women are already offering their help as librarians, carpenters, and movers, and all offers are welcome.

The Archives began with a handful of people who wanted to uncover and save lesbian history, and their first work was meeting hosting discussions, collecting books and periodicals, and resusciting personal memorabilia. Such work continues, but the vision of preserving and celebrating our stories has brought the Archives to a new era, a time when volunteers must take new steps in order to ensure the Archives' survival and growth. With much hard work and your support, our shared dream of a permanent space for the Archives will become a reality.

-Monica Neal

ARE YOU A FRIEND?

The Friends of the Archives, people who give us monetary support for our overall operation, now number 922 members located in almost every one of the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and Israel. Here is where our friends come from:

- Alabama: 1
- Alaska: 15
- Arizona: 21
- California: 106
- Colorado: 36
- Wash DC: 12
- Delaware: 4
- Florida: 10
- Georgia: 7
- Hawaii: 2
- Idaho: 10
- Indiana: 3
- Iowa: 4
- Kansas: 1
- Kentucky: 4
- Louisiana: 3
- Maine: 4
- Maryland: 11
- Massachusetts: 72
- Michigan: 10
- Minnesota: 2
- Missouri: 9
- Montana: 1

Not all of these Friends of the Archives contribute every year, but most have been truly supportive over the past seventeen years. Anyone who gives us their name and address when they contribute is counted as a member of The Friends. Of course, many thousands of lesbians, gay men and other folks friendly to the goals of the Lesbian Herstory Archives have contributed money, time, their skills, or memories of their lives, but most never gave us their names and addresses, so we were unable to record them as contributors. As you can see, only a few states are represented among our Friends, but we want to do more outreach to lesbians and organizations in all areas of the country.

Join this special group of women and help preserve the memory of those we have lost but who will be lost to future generations of lesbians without the Archives. If you are already a friend, tell your friends about the Lesbian Herstory Archives and our work. Encourage them to become a friend of L/H/A as well. Give the gift of friendship to those you love on their birthdays and other important days. Anyone who gives us their name and address is placed on our mailing list to receive our newsletter, but Friends also receive mailings about special L/H/A presentations, slide shows, and other events in their area. Most importantly, Friends know they are helping in a real and very necessary way to keep our work strong. We are thankful to all our supporters, whether they gave one dollar or five thousand.

—Judith Schwartz

LHSEF Newsletter #2 - June 1991

May 1991

Dear Friend —

The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation has raised $100,000, in $10 and $20 donations for the most part, toward the purchase of a new home. We are now launching the final push of the mortgage phase of our Building Fund Drive. We need to raise $150,000 more for a down payment. This goal is essential if we are to avoid placing the Archives in jeopardy by overextending ourselves with too large a mortgage. In order to avoid closing the collection while we continue to fundraise, and also to maximize our investment given the currently favorable real estate market, all of us must act very quickly. We need your immediate help to ensure that the Archives continues to exist.

Our housing search indicates we can find a new home for the Archives priced in the $300,000 range. This amount will ensure us a structurally sound three-story brownstone in Brooklyn — one that is close to subway and bus lines, wheelchair accessible on the ground floor, and large enough to house the collection with adequate living space for Archives caretakers. We want the Archives to be in a safe, warm, comfortable home we can be proud of, not in a structure that is inadequate for our needs and growth.

We need and appreciate every contribution large and small, but we are now making a special appeal for large donations. Many of you have stretched yourselves to the limit for the Archives, and we all are grateful. But there are more of you who we need to go a step further — for all of us — and make our new home a reality.

We ask those of you who can to give generously to us — either in lump sums or on a regular basis as a monthly or quarterly donation. If outright donations or pledges would be a particular hardship at this time, you can make a long-term loan of $500 to $5,000 or more to the Archives? Funds obtained through these direct loans will be used solely for the purchase of the building and accompanying costs. Please call me at (212) 873-9443 for more specific details and information regarding this.

It is only our collective efforts and our actions that will preserve lesbian herstory for future generations. Without your help, we cannot continue. It’s up to us.

Thank you.

In sisterhood,

Deborah Edel, Chair

Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc.

PO BOX 1258 NEW YORK NY 10116 (212) 874-7232
A Dyke by Any Other Name... 31 Other Names. In Fact LHA Buzz & Magnums
This design printed in bright blue and black ink on hot pink 2" square button - $1.25 magnet - $2.50

NOTE: All materials from the archives are mailed in plain wrappers. The Archives mailing list is never sold or rented 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 rinse us up on us if there is a long pause between issues. Be assured that our daily functioning is ongoing. We're requesting that women who are able to do so, and who value the Newsletter, please send us a donation to offset the cost of printing and mailing. Suggested donation is $5 for this and the next issue. The Newsletter will continue to be sent free to any woman who requests it. We must ask libraries and "academia" based/funded programs to make their donation at least $10.00.

Back Issues Available
Every past issue of our Newsletter containing 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).

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In 1990, LHA was founded. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of Lesbian women. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials related to Lesbian history and culture, and to promote Lesbian history and culture through research, education, and public programs.

Our newsletter, LHA Newsletter, is a quarterly publication that features articles, reviews, and announcements about Lesbian history and culture. It is available to members of LHA, and we encourage anyone interested in Lesbian history and culture to subscribe.

Please add my name to the LHA Mailing List:
Yes, I can help. Here is my donation of $:

Send back issues:
$ enclosed

Please print clearly, and don't forget your ZIP code.
Mail to: LHEF, Inc. P.O. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116

LHA Newsletter #12 - June 1991

The Black Triangle

Every so often the Lesbian History Archives gets flooded with questions on a particular subject or topic of interest, and usually after much digging and uncovering we come up with an answer or at least a few relevant sources. The big reference question of the week concerns the origins and uses of the Black Triangle as a Lesbian symbol. About once a month we get another call or letter inquiring about the mysterious black triangle and it is indeed a symbol in use and now and how it came to be one. Well, so far we have found several written sources that document the original use of the black triangle during the 19th century. According to Women in the Resistance and in the Holocaust: The Voices of Eyewitness edited by Vera Leska, (Greenwood Press, 1983), the following color-coding was established for the femmes won below the prisoners' numbers:

- yellow = Jews
- purple = religious believers
- red = political
- pink = homosexuals
- black = associational
- green = professional

This account states that "white homosexuals were the only ones to be taken. Even if they were present in the concentration camps, they were not considered homosexuals. They were simply considered as normal people." This statement is consistent with other sources that document the situation of Lesbian women in Nazi Germany. It is apparent that the black triangle was a symbol used to identify Lesbian women, particularly those who were associated with the Lesbian community, and to distinguish them from the general population of prisoners. This symbol was used to help the Nazi authorities keep track of Lesbian prisoners and to separate them from the other inmates.

Please check to make sure that you have the correct address. We are charged $3 each for "address change requests," and newsletters are destroyed, not returned to us.

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Please tell us your ZIP code.

Send back issues:
$ enclosed

Address changes:

Please write to us at LHEF, Inc.

The Black Triangle

When asked? P's tale as one of terror and total isolation, and portrays the horrors of her life. P's story needs to be told, and our determined and committed oral historian Terrie A. Couch is among the first to pursue interviewing P and other survivors of Ravensbruck.

As Terrie A. Couch states in her article on her experience in West Germany, P's story is her story, is herstory, Lesbian history. She's looking for financial support to continue her project as well as tips on writing biography. If you can help, or care to contact her, please do so.

Terrie A. Couch Hallesteinstr. 14 606 Frankfurt 30 West Germany

At the Archives we are trying to build a more comprehensive file on the black triangle, its origins and uses. A Lesbian from Boston told us a few weeks ago that she thought it gained a wide symbolic use in England during the early 1970s and made its way to America through the women's peace camp movement.

Another Lesbian from New York, upon returning from a trip to Europe, reported that it was somewhat of a contested issue abroad, with the women from England claiming it as a strictly Lesbian symbol from the holocaust. The women in Amsterdam either disagree or see it as more of a contemporary symbol that we have "borrowed" (Terrie A. Couch). She states that she was in the "Asiatic Abteilung" (section) - with the "Poles" and also these "women who made us criticize in the factories were there." She states as well that while there were no Jews there, as the Jewish prisoners were in a different section, she was with the religious oriented women and the gypsies.

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**What's Happening?**

Since the last newsletter came out, the Lesbian History Archives has invited to present LHA Slide Shows such as “Preserving Our Heritage: Issues and Challenges of Doing Lesbian History Research,” “The History of Lesbian and Gay Activism in the 1970s,” “The Lesbian Labor Movement and the Lesbian Curious Pre-1970s” collection at a number of conferences and events. Many of the Coordinators have been invited to speak, make presentations, or write articles addressing issues in Lesbian and Gay history or grassroots archiving. Following is a representative sample of what many of us have been up to.

Archives co-founder Deb Edel has been completing her master's degree in social work but still managed to do a number of presentations, including one for the New York Association of Gay & Lesbian Psychologists on the importance of the Archives to the psychological community. In addition she did a slide show last May at a conference of Catholic Lesbians and published an article on the Archives in Women of Power (issue #1, Spring 1990). She also has an article on the Archives in the Ginny Viday's upcoming revised edition of Our Right To Love.

Coordinator Judith Schwartz served as the Lesbian coordinator for the Berkshires Women's History Conference last June in New Jersey, delivered a keynote presentation on Lesbian History at the March 1990 Passages Conference in Washington, D.C., and presented the slide show for the NY Weschester NOW chapter last May. Then she off to Los Angeles, CA to do a joint fundraiser with the June Meade West Coast Lesbian Collection. Judith also has a piece on Lesbian History in Ginny Viday's book.

Coordinator Amy Beth also attended the Passages Conference in DC to present the Archives slide show and travelled with Jean Neliss to Hampshire College during Women's History Month to do yet another fabulous slide presentation on Lesbian history. Amy also represented the Archives at the Sixtage seminar last Labor Day in the Pennsylvania, presenting a workshop on preservation and conservation of your personal records.

Coordinators Polly Thistlethwaite and Lucinda Zoe represented the Archives at the 2nd Annual East Coast Lesbians Festival in June 1990. At I.N.Y.'s Gay and Lesbian Community Center's first Lesbian Orientation, they staffed a table, answered questions and introduced newcomers to the joys of discovering Lesbian history. The Center's 7th annual Garden Party was held on June 18 and Polly and Lu- cinda were there as Archive reps. As part of its volunteer work, the Archives has been on the board of a number of organizations.

In addition to organizing the Kensington One Shot, Coordinator Monica Gwinlaw prepared a workshop for the Boston Women's Conference on June 3. She has been in contact with many of the groups and has donated slides to the Archives. Amy Beth trans- ported the equipment and attended the Fab 90 conference. Monica has several photos in Our Right To Love.

Also of note last year was our “At Home with the Archives” presentation at the New York Lesbian and Gay History Conference. On January 1990, members of the Emergency Committee for Political Prisoners Barbara Zeller and Eva Roslin showed a comprehensive slide show on the individual stories of six revolutionary activists, two of whom are Lesbians. The activists were involved with groups working against the Klan, participating in women's liberation and independence for Puerto Rican. Other "At Homes" last year included a poetry reading with Joan Larkin and Bea Galles and Colleen, with researchers who discussed their projects and used the Archives.

— Lucinda Zoe

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**Before You Donate Your Collection To The Archives...**

Please take the time to be the architect of your own collection.

We want to receive as much of your marvelous collections of letters, papers, photographs, scrapbooks, objects and oral history. We are not sure about our collection. If you decide to donate something, we must make great efforts to organize it. We will do it if necessary, but whenever possible, take the time to follow these suggestions before sending your collection to the Lesbian History Archives.

Store your papers in a cool, clean, dry, dark place. Use acid-free, non-lignin paper and use clear, lignin-free adhesives. Use a metal clip at the top of each piece of paper. Store your papers away from direct sunlight and moisture. Use a metal clip at the top of each piece of paper. Store your papers away from direct sunlight and moisture.

Unroll all papers so that they lie flat. Crease paper easily, so make sure you do not crease or fold your paper. Remove staples, pins, and other metal objects from your paper. Use a metal clip at the top of each piece of paper. Store your papers away from direct sunlight and moisture.

Don't forget to organize your collection in a way that makes sense to you. Try to organize by category, such as letters, diaries, or photographs. Use a metal clip at the top of each piece of paper. Store your papers away from direct sunlight and moisture.

— Polly Thistlethwaite

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**The Reader's Guide continues on page 2.**

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**No Queers Here**

The Lesbian History Archives has joined the American Library Association's Gay and Lesbian Task Force in preparing the H.W. Wilson Company, makers of the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, to end its exclusion of gay and lesbian periodicals. The Reader's Guide is the most widely used index to popular U.S. magazines and journals. The Reader's Guide's green volumes are displayed prominently in nearly every library's reference room. High school and college students rely on it heavily, even exclusively, to find articles for term papers and research projects.

**In Special Order**

We now have LHA pamphlets in Spanish, French, and Dutch. Special thanks to translators Tonic Oracle, Gilbert Erck, Karin Zürcher, Nicole Blanchon.
LEISBAN AND GAY HISTORICAL SOURCES
SOME ESSENTIAL RESEARCH GUIDES

Listed here are a few titles that are essential references sources to Lesbian and Gay History. These are titles that should be in just about every public and research library. If they aren’t—well, it may be up to you to request them. The Lesbian History Archives compiled this bibliography to aid you with your own projects and, we hope, to help local librarians to effectively develop their collections in this area of Lesbian and Gay studies.


Frohman, Jeanette H. Sex Variant Women in Literature. Tallahassee: Natel, 1985. This was originally published by the author in 1976. If an amazing annotated bibliographic essay, a tree of love of love by yet another Lesbian librarian.


**Women, Sex & Censorship**

**AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS OF NOTE...**

In February of 1990 the Archives, along with New York’s 3 Dollar Bill Theatre, hosted a joint fund-raiser that featured an impressive list of performers acting out, speaking out, and putting it all on the line in the name of Women, Sex & Censorship. From an opening slide sequence of erotic photographs including the work of Morgan Gwendal and others to performance artists such as Lisa Kron, Bina Sharif, and Diviana Ingravallo to writers such as Sapphire, Chea Villarreal, Joan Nestle and Cheryl Clark, the sold-out show dazzled the SRO crowd and pushed the limits in an attempt to take a close look at censorship and sexuality. What a night! The Travelling Millies, an all Dyke country band, played a few explicit songs, Claire Olivia Moed read a heart-thumping piece from a 1950s Lesbian pulp novel, and Annie Sprinkle appeared as Nurse Sprinkle along with Les Nichols in a piece on the first female-to-male Transsexual love story. Veronica Vera of P.O.N.Y. (Prostitutes of New York) also performed to an audience of a stunning and titillating evening.

Other fund-raisers and events of note over the past year, in addition to the house parties that took place in May and June, have included a benefit dance for the Archives at SHERSCAPE/Private Eyes in August 1990; two benefit parties sponsored by The Network of New York, a network of business and professional organizations, one in November 1990 and another in April 1991; a fabulous “Queer Love Day Benefit” in February 1990 close to Valentine’s Day at a loft in Tribeca; a wonderful Tea Dance on Long Island in May 1990; a dance party benefit sponsored by the Flaming Femmes and the Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood in June, 1990 and by SISTERS in January 1991. Brooklyn Lesbians Together disbanded and donated their remaining funds to the Archives, which was very much appreciated. A number of folks have celebrated anniversaries and birthdays with all their going to the Archives Building Fund.

The Women of Women’s Right in Provincetown did a benefit for the Archives last year and there was even a Gay man in California who saw an ad we had run in the Advocate for the building fund and sent us a check, then removed the ad and sent it to one of his friends asking for support. More recently, a collective Ad-hoc committee of Boston women organized a really wonderful benefit for the Archives in April 1991 with the theme of “Preserving Our Past, Building Our Future.” The presentation featured a reading by Joan Nestle and Michelle Parkerson, as well as a showing of Michelle’s film “Storme: Lady of the Jewel Box” and a special appearance by Storme Delarverie. Several hundred women were on hand to witness and experience Lesbian history in the making on this rare and special occasion. A special thanks to Jennifer, Beth and Becky for a job well done in Boston. This type of grassroots support is really the heart of the Archives — we simply cannot thank you all enough for your kindness and generosity in working with us on our goal to find a permanent home for the Archives and the history we seek to preserve.

— Lucinda Zoe

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**THE CLAUDIA SCOTT FUND STARTS LHEF ENDOWMENT**

In December 1990, the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., the not for profit entity that runs the Archives, received a wonderful and unexpected gift, when the Claudia Scott Fund gave over $11,000 to establish an endowment fund. Claudia Scott (10/31/48 - 12/22/79) was a carpenter, poet and influential activist in the Chicago and Philadelphia Lesbian communities. Her book of poems, *Portrait*, was published in 1974 by Lavender Press, and many of her poems were published in *Lavender Women* and *Sinister Wisdom*. She was a key figure from the beginning of Philadelphia’s Sisterspace Lesbian Hotline. The Claudia Scott Fund was established to grant funds to Philadelphia area Lesbian and Gay organizations. Upon Claudia Scott’s death, her papers and journals were given to the Archives. Her Executors now feel that the remaining funds in the Claudia Scott Fund should also be given to the Archives to start the LHEF endowment.

The newly established LHEF Endowment Fund will be held in perpetuity, with the income from interest on the fund available for Archives projects and expenses. We hope that other gifts such as this will make this Endowment Fund grow over the years. The Archives warmly thanks Claudia’s executors Barbara Gitting and Frances Hancock for their thoughtful generosity in the starting of the LHEF Endowment Fund.