

LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES

NEWSLETTER #11 – JANUARY 1990



Mabel Hampton
1902 – 1989

Mabel Hampton joins Joan Nestle in addressing the NYC Gay Pride Rally in 1984.

photo by Morgan Gwenwald



Marching with LHA, 1980 NYC Gay Pride. Photo by Morgan Gwenwald

Her Spirit Soars Above Us

Mabel Hampton is not dead. She breathes and walks and talks among us. You can see her striding down 169th street, greeting the neighbors who meant so much to her, taking in all the street events. This was the community that was home for so many years to Mabel and her life long partner Lillian Foster. Here on 169th street, Mabel and Lillian made their life, a life filled with hard work and good friends, many of whom are here today. Mabel Hampton is part of the survival energy of this community. She will never leave.

Mabel loved life so much that her passions will be our life long comrades—her love of car rides and bacon and eggs in the morning, her enthusiastic support of her dear Mets, her love of the opera and the long night bus rides to Atlantic City, the joy she took in meeting new friends and her devotion to old ones, her dedication to opening the archives mail, her delight in and concern for her dear dogs, Libby and Denver, her proud proclamation of her right to love whomever she choose to. All of us

who have heard Ms. Hampton's famous "whoppee" know that her "yes" to life was generous and brave and encompassing enough to become an anthem of hope in difficult times.

Mabel Hampton is too stubborn to leave us alone; she knows her words, her love of folk sayings, her remembered bits of poems and song, her charm which could turn to a look that could lay you out, will echo in our memories. Mabel Hampton always said, "If I give you my word, I will stick by it," and she did. This integrity is too rare, too precious to be forgotten.

And we will not be able to leave Mabel alone either, not those of us who benefitted from her miracle of generosity; if Mabel knew you

needed help and she cared about you, nothing would stop her from going to the rescue. She gave when she had nothing for herself; her greatest despair in the past months was that she could not help out enough; in her last week, her greatest victory was when she quietly left the house to do her laundry so Ms. Adams, her home care attendant, would not have so much work to do.

Every Friday night, Lee, my partner, Mabel and I would sit down to a candle light dinner. Mabel loved the elegance of it. In the almost darkened room, three women from very different worlds facing very different journeys, shared bread and stories. During these times I would look with wonder at Mabel, how brave she seemed and how graceful. Some have said that Mabel was childlike, and yes she had the ability to be as enthusiastic as a child; her last two friends were two young boys whom she allowed to beat her in checkers, but Mabel was also the most truly elegant person I have ever known. She was elegant of spirit, self possessed and wise. She saw to the heart of the challenge of life and she never flinched from the struggle to change a little into more. Mabel Hampton knew who she was, she had created herself with little help from others and yet, she had a fullness of being that showered gifts of caring on her selected family. Mabel Hampton is not dead; from floating grace to amazing opportunity, her spirit soars above us.

—Joan Nestle

Mabel Hampton's Funeral Mass
St. Augustine Church, Bronx
November 16, 1989

Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter # 11-January, 1990

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LHA Coordinators: Deborah Edel, Joan Nestle, Judith Schwarz, Beth Levine, Carol O'Donnell, Polly Thistlewaite, Leni Goodman and Amy Beth.

Newsletter Committee: Morgan Gwenwald (Editor), Beth Haskell (Desktop Publishing), René Oliver, Judith Schwarz, Elizabeth Crespo, Jan Boney.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives exists to gather and preserve records of Lesbian lives and activities so that future generations of Lesbians will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives. The process of gathering this material will also serve to uncover and collect our history. These materials will enable us to analyze and re-evaluate the Lesbian experience.

Following are a selection of the many letters and notes the Archives received in tribute to Mabel.

▼
This happened years ago:

I am forever grateful for the money Mabel made me take to go see a doctor when I was very sick.

I was alone and very young and she and Joan and Deb were the first glimmer that just because I didn't have anyone didn't mean nobody didn't have me.

▼
The women of Black Women Together honor Mabel Hampton's movement through life as a visible Afrikan-American lesbian whose herstory we are all richer in having. Her efforts to preserve the Lesbian Herstory Archives have made it infinitely easier for all Afrikan-American lesbians to know our foremothers existed and of their



Age 17, 1909

work in all liberation struggles. Black Women Together is a task oriented social/political organization concerned primarily with the recognition and empowerment of Black Lesbians. Mabel, we will continue to struggle and build upon the strength you've left behind.

—Black Women Together

▼
I first saw Mabel 11 years ago and last saw her in June and what has ALWAYS MOVED ME DEEP INSIDE is the number of loving friends that always surrounded her. It left me speechless. I just loved you from afar. —Gail



"WHOPPEE!"

No Immediate Survivors

Immediate:

right there, close by, quickly,
on the case, in your face.

Survivors:

making it thru, making due,
overcoming, we shall overcome.

Coming thru yesterday
right on past tomorrow

We are those immediate survivors.

—Jewelle Gomez

▼
I recently heard of a great loss to the Lesbian Community. Mabel Hampton. I met Mabel Hampton only once, at the Old Lesbians Conference in 1987. I found Mabel to be warm, friendly and humorous, with a wealth of herstory called memories. I am sad to learn that we can no longer look to her for help in this lifeform. I am thankful for the work she has done in the past and the legacy she left behind. I will mourn her passing because I did not take the opportunity to know her better. I will rejoice the truth that she goes to a far better place than this, a place void of discrimination, no pain, no grief, no sin or stigmas against having whomever we chose to love.

Good bye for now Mabel Hampton. Your good work will live forever. We salute you Mabel Hampton on this, your final journey.

Your sister in Truth, Shaba

My lover and I first met Mabel and Joan when they spoke at Rutgers New Brunswick at a event sponsored by More Than You Can Count for Black History Month a few years ago. I don't remember much about the program except that at the end I felt wonderful about being Black and a Lesbian. And when I got to her in the receiving line and shook her hand I felt so much power, so much love that is still refreshing my soul from this woman.

▼
WE, (The Old Lesbians Organizing Committee) just heard of the passing of Mabel Hampton. Mabel Hampton was a pioneer in the Lesbian Community. She gave unstintingly of herself to help women in need in New York City.

Mabel Hampton was our honored guest at our first West Coast Conference in 1987. Meet-



LHA, 1980 Photo by Paula Grant

ing her for the first time was like greeting a relative that you had not seen in a long time. She shared personal stories and concerns that made her alive in our memory. Mabel Hampton is certainly immortalized, not just by being a part of our conference but who Mabel Hampton was, her works and what she stood for.

We will certainly miss Mabel Hampton. She leaves us a legacy, a purpose, a mission to continue our struggle, our need to create and organization of and by Old Lesbians. Yes, Mabel Hampton was a Lesbian for our times and we are strengthened by knowing such a lesbian.

Sincerely in Sisterhood, OLOC



Mabel, with photo of Lillian Foster, her lover of 46 years.



March on Washington, Oct. 11, 1987

This is an excerpt from the taped interview Joan Nestle made with Mabel in 1979 and later used in the "Lesbian Courage, Pre-1970" slide show.

*Mabel:...*down here [at the Archives] it was just like two couples, Joan and Deborah and Mabel and Lillian; and we got along lovely, and we played, we sang, ate, it was marvelous! I will never forget it. And Lillian, of course, Lillian was my wife.

I had Joan laughing because I called Lillian "Little Bear." But when I first met her in 1932 she was, to me, she was a dutchess—the grand dutchess—and I can't remember what she called me now. But later in life, a number of years later, I named her; I got angry with her one day and I called her the "Little Bear" and she called me the "Big Bear" and of course that hung on to me all through life. And now we're known to all our friends as the "Big Bear" and "Little Bear." *Joan:* Mabel, did you like to wear men's clothes?

M: Yes. I like to wear pants. I always dress kind of tailored, skirt and blouse and things like that. But I like the pants and cap, and the hat. But I never considered myself being a man. Because I never liked the men that much. And anything I don't like, I don't take up. And I always took up being a woman because I liked the women and what they stood for.

J: What was the word you called yourself?

M: I had quite a lot of my friends that were known as studs and the stud comes as part of the way they dressed, I think. You see, because they dressed nicely and short hair and things like that. But I didn't care, I kept my hair. I didn't bother with the hair. I just liked the suits,

and the pants and shoes. I didn't want to be tied down to anything. I just wanted to be myself.

I never considered marrying. I had so much trouble when I was little; little girl going to school and my uncle tried to rape me and then every house, even people I went to work for, the men would try to touch me on my buttons—and I didn't like it. So, therefore, they meant nothing to me because they were always doing something I didn't like. And if you do something I don't like, I don't bother with you. Good Riddance to you! From a very early age, I knew that I would never marry. I didn't see any sense in marrying something that I didn't like.

That meant I had to always work and I've always worked. And right up until I pass away I'm still working.

And I took care of my women. Lillian—from 1932 to 1978—we were together. We didn't part. We quarreled a little bit and maybe that's all; tongue and teeth falls out, but we just went on. I know she's happy now that I am just myself. And she sees now that when she used to jump me about anything; she sees that I'm right. And I believe she sees it because I believe in reincarnation and lots of people don't. Correct? ▼

Collecting Postcards...Artifacts of Lesbian Culture

In documenting the lives of lesbians, emphasis is placed on traditional historical sources: books, diaries, letters, and photographs. Examples of material culture, such as an embroidered pillowcase with entwined initials or such popular culture items as post cards are categorized as ephemera, and receive less attention from researchers and collectors. Yet, there are many avenues for purchasing these artifacts of lesbian culture, with postcards among the most easily accessible.

At the turn of the century sending and receiving postcards was an internationally established hobby, with many cards preserved as keepsakes in special postcard albums. Postcards were so popular that in 1903 a newspaper proclaimed Europe would soon drown in a sea of postcards. Even today, the popularity of postcard collecting is surpassed only by stamp and coin collecting.

Historic postcards found in antique stores are generally overpriced and unorganized, and usually represent the remains of a dealer's larger purchase. Inexpensive postcards can easily be found in local and regional paper and ephemera exhibits or in shows organized by clubs. Upon entering a postcard show you will probably be surrounded by a sea of postcards on folding tables, and you may indeed have the sense of drowning. Dealers usually cover their tabletops with thousands of cards displayed in shoe boxes, notebooks, or small storage boxes. Cards range generally from a dime to \$5, with most prices under \$2.

Here are a few helpful tips for searching for postcards with lesbian images. Cards are usually separated into two large categories: views and topicals, with additional divisions in each

category. View cards are arranged by state or country, which neatly compartmentalizes all Ohio cards in one section. Topicals are arranged by eclectic subjects selected by the dealer, such as advertising, railroads, sanitoriums, etc.

Unfortunately, such topical divisions do not include lesbians or



cross-dressing. If a dealer asks you for the subject of your search, and you reply, "Lesbians," you'll most likely receive a smirk or be directed to a "special" notebook behind the counter, which probably contains heterosexual pornographic cards made in France in the early 20th century.

My own experience suggests the categories most likely to contain lesbian images or themes are women, humor, suffrage (where you'll find the "mannish female" and the "masculine woman"), romantic couples, and real photos. Real photos or real photograph cards are postcards on photo-

graphic paper. Many were made by amateur photographers and most predate 1930.

In a box of real photos you'll encounter a variety of subjects, including disaster snapshots, the winning vegetable at a county fair, babies and small children, and souvenir cards from resorts and amusement parks. One of my recent purchases, reproduced here, is a scene from a European photographer's studio with two smiling women, one in knickers and a suit jacket, who casually leans on the window sill of a woman in peasant dress.

There are several qualities to look for in a card: good condition (no tears, folds, or worn corners), decoration such as embossment or ornamental glitter, clarity and distinctiveness, a cryptic or romantic message on the reverse, and, most importantly, your individual response to a particular image or message.

An isolated card from one woman to another poses many questions: was there additional correspondence, were other cards saved (if so, where are they), how geographically separated were the correspondents, and what was the relationship between the verbal and visual message on a card's front with the personal message on the reverse? Such questions are part of the collecting mystique.

Collecting historic postcards can provide an inexpensive escape from intellectual overkill, and a fun, easy, and inexpensive way to collect and preserve examples of lesbian material culture.

—Janet Miller

The Archives will be happy to receive donations of postcards to add to our Found Images Collection. Please include info on how/where you obtained it.

“In Memory of the Voices We Have Lost”

The Archives is a place to commemorate lost lovers and friends. As a people we have been deprived of the rituals of communal sorrow. Many lesbians have already experienced the pain of silent mourning. Often in newspapers, a euphemism for the death of a Lesbian is “There are no known survivors.” This is not true. *We are each other's survivors.*

We hope that you will remember the Lesbians in your community, your sisters, your friends, through memorials and letters to the Lesbian Herstory Archives, so that we may all honor their lives. Their voices and lives should not be lost or made invisible when we are no longer here ourselves to tell their stories.

Ann West, (?)—August 28, 1989, Long Island, NY

Billy Lee Tipton, (?) 1905—January 21, 1989

Bobbi Lev, (?)—June 25, 1986

Bunny McCullough, (?)—May 29, 1989, California

Chris Cowap

Donna Marie De Rosier

Lynne Burmyn, 1945(?)—September, 1988, Minneapolis

Mabel Hampton, May 2, 1902—October 26, 1989, NYC

Maggy Krebs, January 31, 1929—Jan. 30, 1987, Los Angeles & Boston

Mary Helen Mautner, November 30, 1944—August 24, 1989, Washington, D.C.

Nancy Mosier, (?)—October 15, (?), Minneapolis

Pat Parker, January 20, 1944—June 17, 1989

Pearl Mererna, 1920(?)—1986, NYC, Nyack

Robin Ortiz, 1967(?)—October 18, 1989, Santa Cruz

Sara Deniz Ataturk, January 7, 1962—November 27, 1989, New Jersey

Sue Chertok, (?)—October 23, 1988, Chicago

12 de diciembre de 1989

Queridas Amigas:

Soy española y estuve estudiando en Nueva York desde 1981 hasta 1985. Por desgracia para mí, no tuve conocimiento de la existencia de los “Archives” hasta 1985. Yo pensaba que los “Archives” eran “sólo” un centro de documentación. Por lo tanto, cuando los necesité para mis investigaciones, aparecí por aquí.

No sé si podré explicar el gran impacto que para mí supuso el encuentro con los “Archives”, y ello por tres razones:

1) Conociendo y habiendo recorrido buena parte de las bibliotecas de Nueva York que tuvieran que ver con temas de sexualidad (y no hablo exclusivamente de lesbianismo, sino de sexualidad en general), descubrí que los “Archives” tenían una enorme colección de documentos que no se encuentran en ningún otro lugar, y además buena parte de ellos se hallan perfectamente clasificados por temas.

2) Descubrí asimismo el aspecto organizativo de lucha política y de solidaridad para con la comunidad de lesbianas llevado a cabo todo ello con una eficacia y un calor difícilmente encontrable en otras organizaciones.

3) Por último, el aspecto humano, personal, referido tanto a la ayuda recibida a la hora de realizar una búsqueda bibliográfica, por ejemplo, como por el tipo de maravillosa relación de amistad y solidaridad que las mujeres que están involucradas en esta aventura establecen con las que aparecemos por aquí por una o otra razón.

En resumen, sólo puedo decir que desde que descubrí los “Archives” siempre he sentido que tengo aquí una segunda casa, y esto, para una extranjera para quien Nueva York ha podido resultar a menudo una dura experiencia, no tiene precio.

Un abrazo para todas,
Raquel

December 12, 1989

Dear Friends,

I am a Spanish woman who was studying in New York from 1981 until 1985. Unfortunately, I did not become aware of the Archives until 1985. At first, I thought the Archives was only an information center. Nevertheless when I needed it for my studies, I found it.

I do not know if I can explain the great impact the Archives had on me, and this is why:

1) Having examined and searched through New York libraries for information on the theme of sexuality (not just for information on Lesbians, but on sexuality in general), I discovered that the Archives had an enormous collection of documents that I was not able to find in any other place and, in addition, a good part of them were well organized.

2) I discovered at the same time the organizational aspect of the Archives, its political struggles and its solidarity with the Lesbian community, its ability to be efficient and passionate at the same time, a combination difficult to find in other organizations.

3) Lastly, its human and personal aspect which was present when I received help to locate a difficult-to-find article or as another example, the marvelous rapport of friendship and support the volunteers who are part of this adventure establish with the women who come to visit the Archives.

4) In summary, I can only say that since I have discovered the Archives I always feel as if I have a second home, and this feeling, for a stranger in New York, is a priceless gift.

I embrace you all,
Raquel

The Role of Volunteers At The Archives

There is a very special group of volunteers who contribute in a variety of ways to the continued operation of the Archives. Some come every Thursday night, rain or shine, to help process the ever-burgeoning number of documents, clippings, periodicals, books, and papers we receive. Others have learned the ins and outs of the mailing list and electronic data bases and keep those files updated. And still others join us when we schedule weekend workdays to blitz a project or process a special collection of papers.

Even for those who come regularly, their weekly activity is likely to vary. One week it may be alphabetizing the non-fiction books and the next week it may be fixing up the signs we carry in the Gay Pride march. The way in which women volunteer their time and services is as diverse as the women themselves and it is that diversity and energy which allows us to keep going and to keep growing. The truth is, we have so much work to do, work of all kinds, that all efforts are needed and every task makes a difference.

Volunteers breathe life into the Archives. While the guiding principles were established by the three early coordinators, Joan, Deb, and Judith, it is the action of the volunteers and current group of volunteer coordinators that provides texture to the principles. For example, we are committed to being accessible, in all ways. It is a volunteer who arranges to open the Archives for researchers from around the world who come to work here. Unlike other archives, no academic affiliation is necessary to gain access to our files. A volunteer shows the researcher around and helps her get started, makes her feel comfortable, and makes the Archives truly accessible. If necessary, special arrangements

are made for differently abled visitors or researchers.

Political persuasions, religious affiliations, class backgrounds, ethnic identifications, and sexual preferences of the volunteers may, and often do, diverge, but our commitment to an uncensored archives never wavers. Thus, our periodical collection shelves *Off Our Backs* next to *On Our Backs*.

Although free associations with the word *archives* are likely to conjure up images of quiet book shelves in stuffy rooms, for myself at least, archives is to volunteers as body is to heart & soul. At the Lesbian History Archives, the role of the volunteer is second only to the role of the history we seek to preserve.

—Beth Levine

Primary Document from the Archives Collection

From a California newspaper dated November, 1947, for more information contact LHA

2 Girls Held After Marriage To Each Other

Sonoma County Residents Face Charge of Perjury

Two Sonoma County girls who walked to the wedding altar "Because we were in love and wanted to do the right thing" were held in the Santa Rosa jail yesterday, while puzzled Thanksgiving Day guests waited vainly at the valley home for a dinner that never was served.

District Attorney Charles McGoldrick said that Thelma Jane Walker, 27, and her "husband," Marieta Cook, who have been living in the Valley of the Moon for several months as man and wife, would be brought before a magistrate today.

They are being held on investigation of perjury, in connection with an allegedly falsified marriage license.

Charge Uncertain.

"But I don't know yet what I will charge them with," McGoldrick said. "This is the strangest case I ever heard of. It's like something out of 'The Arabian Nights'!"

Meanwhile, the couple, who have been living together as Mr. and Mrs. David Warren, insisted they got married "because it was the only thing to do."

"We fell in love while we were attending the University of California," Marieta said calmly.

Marieta, wearing dungarees, shirt and coat, and with her hair combed back in mannish fashion, held Thelma by the arm as the pair was taken to the jail Wednesday for investigations.

They were arrested on a tip from the FBI, which discovered that Marieta was not a man when the agency investigated "him" in connection with draft evasion charges.

When local officers descended on the Warren home in the Valley of the Moon, they found Marieta industriously digging in the dirt basement. Thelma, a school teacher, was out shopping for the Thanksgiving dinner.

Like many a couple on a festive holiday, they were to have guests. The other couple who were invited, actually a man and wife team, showed up for dinner yesterday, unaware of developments.

Guests Puzzled.

They asked Deputy Sheriff Jim Manning where the Warrens were. Manning chewed a blade of grass and replied with embarrassment: "Reckon they aren't coming. They're in jail."

When he explained the circumstances, the visiting wife was visibly shaken. They had brought their contribution to the holiday dinner. In a few moments, they picked up the groceries and drove away.

Worked Here.

Thelma graduated from the University of California. Marieta attended the school, and later worked as a laboratory technician in San Francisco. The girls said they lived together after Thelma's graduation. With the exception of a few separations, they have been living together for the past seven years, they said.

They were married in a San Francisco church by an unsuspecting minister last June 29. Then they moved to Sonoma County, where Thelma got a job teaching at Union High School, and Marieta took over the ranching chores.

She raised rabbits and chinchillas.



Archives volunteer Polly Thistlewaite puts the final touches on the LHA exhibition at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in NYC. The show was an exhibit of photos, graphics and memorabilia from the collection. It was on display for two months in late 1989. Photo by Morgan Gwenwald.

Latin American and Caribbean Lesbians Meet

The Second Meeting or "Encuentro" of Latin American and Caribbean Lesbian Feminists will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica April 11—14, 1990.

Originally it was to be held in Peru in October of 1989 but after much work and lengthy discussions the organizations in Peru came to the conclusion that it would not be safe to celebrate the Encuentro there. As they stated in their letter, Peru is going through a period of intense unrest, social violence, economic crisis and political instability. As Lesbians they have been the target of oppression from different sources and it has reached a point that their lives are endangered. Organizations from both the right and the left (Shining Path, The Revolutionary Movement Tupac Amaru and paramilitary groups like the Commando Rodrigo Franco) have proposed solving Peru's crisis by putting to death supposed enemies. Recently Consuelo Garcia, a known feminist, was murdered. Death threats have been made to two other feminist women by Commando Rodrigo Franco. Nine men were killed under the pretext of a "moralizing action" by an armed group that had threatened drug addicts, prostitutes and homosexuals. As a result of these events the organizers of the Encuentro felt that they could not

guarantee the safety of the women who would attend and that they would have to restrict greatly their activities.

Las Entendidas (The Ones Who Know), a Costa Rican Lesbian group have taken up the task of organizing this Encuentro. Given the climate of oppression and homophobia in our Latin American countries it is very important for us to continue to meet and network amongst ourselves as a way to survive. The Encuentros have been a space we have created to do this. But without economic support from friends it can't be done. Recently two of the organizers from Costa Rica were here in the US asking for support so that the Encuentro can happen in April.

Please send your donations to Las "Buenas Amigas," PO Box 627, Stuyvesant Sta., NYC, 10009.

—Elizabeth Crespo

DOB Video Update

The Daughters of Bilitis Video Project is moving into its final stages as the co-directors work toward a Fall 1990 release date. Only a few key members of the early lesbian rights organization remain to be interviewed. After the remaining interviews are completed Morgan Gwenwald, Sara Yager and Manuela Soares will edit the tape for release. ▼

LHA Show and Tell

The Archives was represented at many conferences and other events over the past two years. We do this work in our effort to build the collection and share our material with interested women. Following are a few of the many appearances we have made since 1987:

Deb Edel, Joan Nestle and Judith Schwarz all represented LHA at the Lesbian History Gathering at Rockport, Mass in June 1987. Judith spoke on homophobia as part of the panel on "Racism, Sexism & Homophobia." at the 1987 Society of American Archivists meeting in NYC. She also served on the Washington Lesbian history panel at the Passages IV Conference on Aging for Lesbians of all ages in Washington, DC in January 1988. She returned for Passages V in 1989 with the LHA slideshow. Deb spoke to the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Radcliff and Harvard in 1988 and several New Jersey groups as well. Judith showed the slideshow at the NYC Commission on the Status of Women, July 1989.

Polly Thistlewaite spoke on Lesbian issues at the American Library Association Convention held in New Orleans in June 1989. Judith spoke on "Oral History/Lesbian Herstory" in Galveston for the Oral History Association in October 1989. That same month she also spoke on "All We Had to Do Was Ask," on the panel "Out of the Closet and Into the Stacks" at the Society of American Archivists held in St. Louis.

Joan spoke at the National Women's Studies Assoc. in June 1988. She presented the slide show and read from her book *A Retriected Country* in London and Amsterdam, September 1988. In 1989, Joan did a series of readings at Universities and book stores in California.

If your group or school would be interested in having a speaker or slide show from LHA, please contact us. ▼

Economic Report for Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation Since 1988

In our first few years a good part of our money came from a titling by the Archives founders. Over the years the balance has shifted, so that ongoing expenses are now being met by community donations. 1988 marked the first year that our incoming donations topped \$25,000 and we had to file our first formal 990 with the IRS and all the NY State charitable agencies.

How Do We Meet Our Expenses?

- All labor at the Archives is done by volunteers; it is a labor of love and many hard, long hours of work by a core group of women.
- We haven't had to fundraise to pay rent, since the collection is housed in the apartment Joan and Lee share.
- Though our vision & knowledge of what needs to be done is great, our decisions about expenditures are based on actual income.
- We are given generous donations of books and materials from the Lesbian community.

How Do We Get Our Money?

- We receive donations from individual women who visit the Archives, read our newsletter, or hear us speak and believe in the vision of the Archives.
- Money comes from our donation can at LHA and conferences where women give us dollars and change anonymously, as well as donations for the photocopying which we do in response to information requested in letters and by visitors at LHA.
- We receive honorariums for the slide show and speaking engagements we do about the work of LHA. We do not charge a set fee but ask that university and community groups which have access to funding respect our needs. We often show the slide show to the Lesbian community in situations where we pass the hat. All honorariums and donations we receive for speaking go into the

Archives account after we are reimbursed for travel expenses.

- We also receive money from donations for our poster, buttons, postcards and pamphlets.
- Monies come from grants from within the Lesbian community and alternative funding sources.
- Monies come from other sources such as memorial funds, workplace donations, cultural events, donations from other organizations, and donations, earmarked for special needs.

How Can you Help?

- BECOME A FRIEND OF THE ARCHIVES
- Undertake a fixed expense as your personal project. Let us know that you want to pay part or all of one of our expenses. We will gladly name it after you or a name of your choice.
- Send us basic supplies such as pencils, paper, envelopes, etc.
- Talk to your local publisher, organization, women's bookstore and arrange for us to get free samples, review copies of books and journals.

Income for 1988

individual donations	9,052.97
benefits	3,076.57
honorarium	527.50
LHA can	96.00
grants	
DOB Project	10,000.00
R. Giard Project	5,000.00
Chase Matching	50.00
buttons, etc.	339.00
Microfilm Project	25.00
DOB Project	5,556.35
Friends Campaign	9,638.00
interest savings	243.18
Building Fund	998.00
interest Bld Fund	818.31
Total	48,587.23

Expenses for 1988

printed material	1,208.73
storage rental space,	
equipment & repairs	3,533.91
bank charges	193.98
printing/copying	6,964.39
post office	2,783.42
stationery/supplies	582.68
AV supplies	840.96
grants expenses	14,921.72
events expenses	1,097.11
other	5,240.74
Total	37,367.64

Income for 1989

individual donations	2,308.75
benefits	818.00
honorarium	96.00
LHA can	212.00
grants	
Ms. Foundation	10,000.00
Open Meadows	800.00
North Star	1,500.00
buttons, etc.	348.35
DOB Project	793.60
Friends Campaign	16,214.00
other donors	2,739.68
interest savings	553.32
Building Fund	5788.81
interest Bld Fund	1,525.23
Total	43,697.74

Expenses for 1989

printed material	558.85
storage rental space,	
equipment & repairs	8,451.51
bank charges	87.15
printing/copying	792.66
post office	1,802.60
stationery/supplies	637.70
grants expenses	11,143.20
events expenses	705.35
other	4,445.82
Total	28,624.83

Explanation of categories in charts: *printed material* includes pamphlets, posters, resource materials. *Printing* refers to ongoing costs of running photocopy machine, outside copying, printing of fliers, announcements, newsletters. *Mailing* includes the bulk mail permit, PO Box rental, bulk mailings, & postage for correspondence. *Supplies* include preservation materials such as acid-free file folders, paper, Hollinger boxes and basic stationery. *AV* includes cassette tapes for oral histories & events plus duplication, film for duplication & slide shows, processing, video tapes for projects. *Grants* expenses include ongoing expenses of DOB Video project & reimbursement of expenses, transcription services for Mabel Hampton Oral History Project; expenses for photography grant, and microfilm equipment. *Events*, expenses includes cost of space rental, supplies, set-up, etc. *Other donors* include Women's Funding Coalition, United Way, matching grants Mabel Hampton Memorial Fund. *Other Expenses* include phone, messenger service, electricity, mailing house charges, organizational dues, and Mabel Hampton Funeral Expenses.



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

LHA Buttons

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



Cloe and Edith, relaxing, after having made their plans for a May Fundraiser in their town - to benefit the Archives Building Fund.

*Will you join them?
(see center page...)*

Back Issues Available

Every past issue of our Newsletter contains a listing of Archives holdings on various aspects of Lesbian culture. Original copies are no longer available, but we can xerox copies for you at cost, plus postage (use order form below).

- #1 6/75 Serial media w/Lesbian content; Research Project Ideas; \$1
- #2 3/75 Bibliography of Lesbian, Feminist & Gay Bibliographies; \$1
- #3 11/76 Lesbian Paperbacks, 1930s through 1950s; \$1
- #4 2/78 Poetry Collection: \$1.50
- #5 spring 79 Short Story Collection: \$2
- #6 7/80 Lesbian Herstory Sources; Special Collections Listing; \$3
- #7 winter 81 Lesbian Sexuality Bibliography; Special Books Collections Listing; \$4
- #8 winter 85 International Collections Listing; Poetry Update; Unpublished Papers \$5.50
- #9 2/86 12 pages reporting on Archives activities and projects \$3
- #10 2/88 12 pages reporting on Archives activities & projects \$3

NOTE: All materials from the Archives are mailed in plain wrappers. The Archives mailing list is NEVER loaned or sold to anyone! We may occasionally do a special mailing for another group, but WE will retain access control and confidentiality.

Publishing the Newsletter is a time consuming and costly project. Please don't give up on us if there is a long pause between Newsletters. Be assured that our daily functioning is ongoing. We're requesting that women who are able to do so, and who value the Newsletter, please send us a donation to offset the cost of printing and mailing. Suggested donation is \$5 for this and the next issue. The Newsletter will continue to be sent free to any woman who requests it. We must ask libraries and "academia" based/funded programs to make their donation at least \$10.00.

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

- Please add my name to the LHA Mailing List.
- Yes, I can help. Here is my donation of \$ _____.
- Send back issues(s) # _____, \$ _____ enclosed.
- Send _____ pamphlets: LHA-86-1 @ 3/\$1.
- Send _____ postcards @ 3/\$1. (Deb on NYC street)
- Send _____ buttons @ \$1.25 each
- My address has changed. Old ZIP code: _____.
(My new address is entered below.)

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

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

_____ name

_____ street address

_____ city _____ state _____ zip

Make checks payable to: LHEF, Inc.

What We Are Looking For in a Building

We need your help to guarantee the best possible Home we can find. We must pay cash for whatever we find, because we can't count on a bank's mortgage. We will probably have to fix it up, and we certainly will have to add security, fire humidity and temperature controls throughout the entire building. We also want it accessible. Knowledgeable lesbians in real estate in NYC are helping us search. They tell us that until we have \$100,000 we can't even start looking at buildings. Until we have \$300,000 we probably can't buy even a shell. And until there is about \$1,000,000 dollars in the building fund account, we can't hope for more than a lot of headaches with whatever we find. But the Lesbian Herstory Archives has never been in debt, and you've helped us survive and grow. Almost \$40,000 has been raised for the building fund in less than a year. Not one penny of your money will go to pay salaries or fundraising costs. We are asking every Lesbian to contribute individually, as well as help us in fundraising activities. The Archives doesn't just preserve papers and artifacts. It has honestly preserved Lesbian life and lives, in a hundred small and large ways. The very existence of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, as well as the knowledge contained in those countless files and images, have kept more women going than any of us will ever know. We have witnessed women on paltry retirement plans leave a hundred dollars in the goldfish bowl by the door after spending a few hours here, and a teenager gave everything in her pockets, wished it was more, and called the Archives her *lifeline*. The Archives is where we will be remembered, our writings and images cherished and preserved, our history connected to the future, and our people supported.

▼

JOIN US In This WORLDWIDE EFFORT to RAISE MONEY for an ARCHIVES BUILDING.

Please add the name of your...

community
bookstore
business
print shop
campus
sewing circle
coven
softball team
bar
production company
support group
women's center
karate school
political group
chorus
shelter
spiritual group
riding stable
rock band
garden club
restaurant
health clinic
bowling team
union
marching band
????

Let us know what to put down on our calendar for your branch of the Family. Send us a copy of your flyer or invitation. (Your event doesn't have to fall between May 2-9).

We will print a list of events in our next newsletter. You don't have to let us know what you are planning to do, we'd love to anticipate it, but will be also happy to receive unexpected checks. If there is anything we can do to help in your efforts...suggestions, materials, technical assistance, contacts, whatever, let us know (the earlier the better) and we will try to assist you.

Mail To: LHEF, Inc., PO BOX 1258, NY, NY

Dear Archives Women;

Here's who we are: _____ Yes, publish our name & event

Contact person: _____ Yes, you may publish my name

Address & Phone (will NOT be published): _____

What we will do to help fundraise: _____

Cash Goal: _____ Date of Event: _____

- Please send me information on The Friends of the Archives
 Please contact me about including the Archives in my will

A Call to Lesbians Everywhere

We Need Your Help in Our Fundraising
Efforts To Buy a BUILDING for the
LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES

This is the Year We Need to Make It Happen,
and We Can't Do It Without Your Help.

YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE...the largest and oldest Lesbian archive in the world, home for over 10,000 books, 12,000 photos, 1,300 periodical titles, countless letters, diaries, t-shirts, buttons, organizational papers...all the artifacts of lesbian lives. We are open to all lesbians as visitors and researchers, at no charge, with no required academic affiliation. You may have been one of the over 1,200 visitors, or 3,000 callers the Archive volunteers responded to last year.

For over sixteen years the Lesbian Herstory Archives has grown and flourished in a large NYC apartment. By the summer of 1990 we must purchase a building outright to ensure that the Archives continues to preserve, shape and reflect Lesbian lives. Because we are concerned that the Archives stays convenient to public transportation in an area that many Lesbians already call home we are searching for a building zoned for a non-profit group, with display and meeting spaces, as well as space for storage, researchers and a small living space. We have always been supported by our worldwide community, by donations made by researchers and visitors, speaking engagements and occasional fundraising events. Now we need to ask you for more.

We are asking you for more than your financial support...we need you to put your creative talents to work during a special week of world-wide LHA Fundraising Events. Organize something with your friends in your community to benefit the Archives.

WHAT THAT MIGHT BE...

GIVE a minimum of one day's income for any or all of these six days.

ASK your community bars, bookstores, and businesses to give a percentage of their income during this week to help preserve the memory of their past, present and future customers and friends.

EVERYONE who loves or has ever loved a Lesbian—make a donation in her name, as well as your own.

CREATE a feast and invite all your friends and their friends over for dinner or barbecue. Sell tickets as a fundraiser, or ask them to bring along checkbooks and piggy banks. Indicate in the invitation that the feast is a fundraiser for the Archives.

ALL you jocks, PE teachers & camp counselors, you know what to do...get out those softball mitts, those bowling balls and start a tournament or event to fund the archives.

THROW a dance to benefit the Archives. How about an historical theme...like lesbians in the 50s, or the 20s... or a lesbian prom.

ORGANIZE the writing and performance talent in your community into an evening of entertainment to benefit the Archives.

WHEN

MAY 2-9, 1990

This is Mabel Hampton's Birthday Week
Celebrate our Communities and
our Family as we work to Buy a
Home for the Archives.



Are you a Friend of the Archives?

If not, now is a good time to join this group of Archives supporters. Check the box on the back of this sheet, mail it to us and we will send you a donor card and information on the Friends of the Archives.

212-874-7232

LHEF, PO Box 1258, NY, NY 10116

INVITE an Archives volunteer to speak to your group, or give our slideshow, (don't worry we have lots of volunteers who like to travel).

WRITE to all your friends, ask them to make a donation. We can supply you with materials or can send them directly. (We won't add their names to our mailing list unless they themselves ask to be put on...that list is never sold or given to anyone.)

THINK of the women you know who deserve a chance to participate in this national effort, who may not be able to because they are in institutions, prisons, or hospitals, and help them find a way to made a donation.

SOLICIT donations of crafts, books, services and other materials from local lesbian, gay and women's businesses, put them all together for an auction or a raffle.

IF there are two or more of you, put your heads together and start thinking what you can do in your home town, organization, place of business, neighborhood or own home to help us meet our goal—an Archives Building.