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July 2024

**“You made a whole universe of
love...”**



Remembering Shay Youngblood

Shay Youngblood died on June 11, 2024, after an extended illness. She was only 64. Loved ones surrounded her as she went to meet her ancestors. Novelist, poet, and playwright, Shay got her start at Charis Books & More (then in Atlanta, Georgia; now in Decatur, Georgia) at the Charis Circle Young Women Writers Group. From an outpouring of tributes and remembrances, we have chosen to spotlight two of them. Both Alexis Pauline Gumbs and E.R. Anderson came up through the same Charis Circle Young Women Writers Group that nurtured Shay Youngblood.

Big Mama Stories



Shay Youngblood

Atlanta was fortunate to witness and celebrate the entire trajectory of Shay's writing career that went from her first, pre-publication poetry reading at Charis Books & More in 1980, all the way to her picture book release in 2023, *A Family Prayer*.



[Read the July Spotlight](#)

You are invited to participate:

Who inspired you to lesbian feminism?

Send us the name of your most significant Shero
with a brief reason why she inspires you.

Both she and you can remain anonymous if you want (just say so) since we will PUBLISH these here on our SLFAHP website.

Send submissions today to: slfainspired@gmail.com. Here's an example:

Rose Norman got her inspiration from Nancy Finley. "At the time, Nancy Finley was

the chair of the Sociology Department at my university. She said, 'Let's see who might be interested in starting a women's studies program.'

"She made feminism seductive, and she opened my eyes to structural causes of oppression. She walks the talk in all aspects of her life."

The Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory Project

We collect, archive, and celebrate oral and written stories of unsung, Southern, lesbian-feminist activists during the second half of the twentieth century. We are proud of our contributions to lesbian culture, strengthened by our collective voices.

Many of us recognized that the lesbian-feminist voices of southern lesbians had been omitted or marginalized in mainstream literature of the LGBTQ movement as well as from feminist history. We are the antidote to this omission. We worked with Duke University to set up archives, did interviews all over the south, and eventually collaborated with Julie Enszer to publish 6 issues of *Sinister Wisdom*, full of all our stories. Now we maintain our website and update it monthly, as you hear about through this newsletter. We are still gathering more Southern lesbian stories, interviewing, writing, editing, tracking and networking.

We are always ready to welcome new collaborators! If you would like to join the SLFAHP group, email us at SLFAHerstoryProject@gmail.com.

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