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**southern lesbian feminist activist
HERSTORY PROJECT**

Collecting, archiving, and celebrating oral and written stories of unsung, Southern, lesbian-feminist activists during the second half of the twentieth century.

October 2024 Spotlight



Between Betty and Me

Susan Robinson writes about her then partner Betty Bird, and how their relationship gave rise in 1979 to a project making feminist journals available to women who, like Betty, couldn't see.

Betty and Susan figured out how to put four feminist journals on cassette tape and distribute them to women who were blind. They did that for two years as Feminist Taping for Handicapped Readers, then handed the project over to two Minnesota women, who continued the work for ten years as Womyn's Braille Press.

Our Spotlight tells the story of this journey to getting feminist writings to women without sight; and there's a bit about the artistic endeavors of Betty Bird and Susan Robinson along the way, including the beginnings of Womonwrites. Betty Bird died nearly two years ago, yet her legacy lives on in this story, as do the contributions of many other lesbian couples you may have encountered before.

[Read the October 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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