

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.

March 2025 Spotlight

She Who Will Be Remembered



Remembering Lesbians: She Who Will Be Remembered is a new feature on our website. This month we are showcasing it with sixteen interviews and stories of pioneering lesbians who have passed away.



Between November 5 and December 9, we said a sad goodbye to three cultural leaders. Shown here, Doris Davenport, Dorothy Allison, and Nikki Giovanni, whose stories are shared through personal tributes. We remember these three strong spirits along with old friends you may want to revisit in our pages, like Shay Youngblood, Barbara Esrig, and many more. Love and creativity shine through this beautiful tribute page — check it out.

If you would like to write a tribute, please send it to us at SLFAHerstoryProject@gmail.com.

Read the March Spotlight

New Interview Posted

Marie Steinwachs Wandering Waste Warrior

A long and winding road brought Marie to her retirement in Melrose. Florida. Read the interview Rose Norman conducted recently, covering Marie's early years on a farm in New York, growing up in Florida and working in her parents' restaurant. She left home at graduation, living an adventurous life in California, Michigan, coming out in Arkansas, settling in Missouri for several decades, before her move back to Florida. Nothing about her story was conventional, and all of it is surprising and inspiring. She has dedicated her life to nurturing Mother Earth by reducing the toxic load She carries.



Marie Steinwachs Interview

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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