

Preparing Your Memory Vessel for Transfer

*Her experience as she had known it had been added to the **vessels of memory** kept within the person of every hill woman. “Lest we forget how we came here.” From the countless seemingly disconnected episodes the women had pieced together a larger picture so that they had some sense of what happened during those last days...Over the years as women had joined them the **memory vessels** had been added to: more and more stories, more and more horrors, and sometimes a narrative that brought with it some hope or humor. As a woman shared, she became part of all their history. (p. 23, *The Wanderground*, by Sally Miller Gearhart)*

Perhaps you’re not quite ready yet to part with your various memorabilia. That’s understandable. But you may want to communicate to your nearest and dearest what you’d like to have happen with your important Lesbian keepsakes – especially the unique one-of-a-kind items.

The Memory Vessel

(or your boxes of “stuff”)

You are more likely to have your wishes respected if you spell out in a will or trust where you want your Lesbian materials to be preserved.

Please use the **“What We Collect” Guidelines** to prepare and organize your materials. If you have already organized your materials, you can include instructions in your estate documents as to the location where the materials should be donated. (Ultimately, the best way to ensure that your memorabilia, papers, etc. are preserved is for you to donate your materials during your lifetime.)

- Place a copy of the **Deed of Gift(s)** in the boxes along with the **Memory Vessel Transfer Directive**. This will make it much easier for your executor, friends, or family to handle the materials (and less likely to have them tossed in exasperation).
- To assist you with this process, Wanderground will send you copies of this directive and labels for the boxes upon request. [NOTE: we do not pay for the cost of transporting items.]

If you have not yet had the opportunity to prepare the items, you can create a directive based on the form below and give it to those you trust to care for your memorabilia should you die or become incapacitated.

Memory Vessel Transfer Directive

Box(es) of Lesbian Memorabilia for Donation

(Sample – Please adjust according to your needs)

*This is a sample directive **only** and is not a legal document.*

Date:

Dear _____,

In the event of my death – with or without a will stating my wishes as to the disposal of my collection of Lesbian materials – it is my request that these possessions be donated as follows:

- All of my memorabilia, including photos, flyers, papers, magazines, t-shirts, buttons and any other personal, professional and political materials that reflect my life as a Lesbian are, without exception, to be donated to the **Wanderground Lesbian Archive/Library, Inc.**
- Please contact Wanderground and make arrangements with them to donate the material. If there are any photos of me that you wish to have, please scan them prior to donating to Wanderground, so they can have the originals.

Wanderground can be contacted at:

archives@wanderground.org

OR

PO BOX 10446 | Cranston RI, 02910

When you donate the materials to Wanderground, you will need to use a **Deed of Gift** which is a contract that indicates that you are donating these materials on my behalf.

Thank you.

Signature: _____

Print Your Full Name: _____

Date: _____