

What We Are Collecting in Wanderground...

Wanderground seeks and values a variety of keepsakes that represent, document, portray, and/or celebrate the diversity of Lesbian lives and experiences. As you clean out your closets (so to speak), attics, and other storage areas, please consider sending your treasures representing your Lesbian life to Wanderground. They tell your story and add to the rich collection of Lesbian heritage and herstory. All the materials in Wanderground are donated.

Time Period: In Wanderground, we collect materials (see detailed list below) that describe, portray, or represent the vibrant Lesbian personal experiences, cultures, communities, and spaces that thrived between the years 1950 – 2000. (*NOTE: The time period may expand in future years, but for now, this is based on our capacity to properly manage the collection.*)

Regional Context: Located in New England, we prioritize and collect personal items from Lesbians who have spent a significant part of their lives in the region (either currently or in previous years). We also gather and preserve artifacts and papers from New England-based Lesbian organizations. If you have questions, please let us know.

Special Collection: In addition, due to the primary interest of the Archive/Library founder, Wanderground holds a significant number of books and publications from the (inter)national *Women in Print** movement, and recordings from Lesbian musicians and recording companies. Therefore, we may accept donations of relevant materials to fill gaps in these collections.

**Between 1970-2000, The Women in Print Movement (WiP) of Lesbian/feminist/women-owned independent presses and bookstores provided vibrant resources and centers that shaped, informed, and supported Lesbian/Feminist sociopolitical movements.*

What: We especially want to receive collections most at risk of being lost due to death, illness, age, or compromised storage areas. We invite Lesbians (or *family/friends* of deceased Lesbians) to collect and to offer donations to Wanderground that portray or document a wide range of Lesbian experiences or everyday lives such as (*but not limited to*):

Publications

- Books
- Magazines or Zines
- Periodicals, journals, newspapers, or local community newsletters
- Brochures, broadsides, etc.

Art & Media

- Audio & Video Recordings - (CDs, albums, films, DVDs, etc.)
- Artwork (all sorts)
- Posters / graphics / banners
- Oral histories

- Jewelry, spiritual objects, etc.

Personal items

- Correspondences (letters, postcards, cards, etc.)
- News clippings
- Diaries or journals or calendars or datebooks
- Prose / Poetry or Unpublished papers
- Photos or slides or Home videos
- Clothing (e.g., t-shirts, ball caps, Lesbian-made handcrafts, etc.)

- Memorabilia (Buttons, bumper stickers, souvenirs, program books, matchbooks, and other collectibles, etc.)
- Unique / One-of-a kind items

Organizations / Communities (based in New England)

- Any of the above AND
- Herstorical information
- Organizational documents/records
- Notices of Events / flyers / conference materials, etc.

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Before You Send Us Your Items....

Our Groundkeepers volunteer their time and energy to keep our materials and collections catalogued and available to Wanderers who browse through or use our resources. To help us be more efficient, please consider the following:

Step 1: Check the Condition of the Materials

We WILL accept materials that are:



- By, for, or about Lesbians (or Lesbian organizations)
- Clean
- Slightly worn or well-loved / Minimal damage
- Underlined or highlighted if contained in a personal collection with a note indicating how it is relevant to your personal story

Note: Unique one-of-a-kind items with broken spines or pages falling out MIGHT be acceptable. Please check first.

Please DO NOT donate items that are:



- Moldy or dirty
- Waterlogged
- Significantly damaged or heavily stained
- Warped or broken (such as records, audiotapes, videos, etc.)

Note: If you're not sure, please send a photo so we can evaluate acceptability of the items.

Step 2: Prepare Your Materials (See details below: "How Do I Organize/Preserve My Stuff," p. 3)

Step 3: Contact Us

Before donating items to Wanderground, please give us a good indication of what you have to donate (make a general list). Whether it's a few books, a couple of boxes, or a large private collection, it will help us to plan if we know specifically what you are donating.

- We prefer contact by email – archives@wanderground.org (or you may send a snail mail: PO Box 10446, Cranston, RI 02910)
- Let us know *how* you plan to deliver the materials to us (mail or in person) so we can provide additional instructions.
- Be sure to include your contact info (mailing address, email, AND phone number) in case we have follow-up questions.

We will contact you as soon as we can to let you know what items we'd like to receive.

Step 4: Complete the Relevant Forms

Once we have indicated we would like to receive your items, please be sure to complete the relevant release form(s) to include with the materials.

- Deed of Gift (General Donation Form)
- Memory Vessel Transfer Directive

How Do I Organize/Preserve My Stuff....

These are some very basic steps you can take to organize your treasures (future archival materials).

1 Locate & Collect

Start gathering your Lesbian memorabilia (publications, documents, photographs, event flyers, posters, brochures, invitations, postcards, t-shirts, buttons, cassette tapes, journals, diaries, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.).

2 Gather Storage Materials

To make your organizing and storage easier, and based on how much you gathered, grab some supplies such as:

- Sturdy/clean boxes (something similar to Banker's boxes are a good size and weight)
- Folders (acid free if possible) / Envelopes
- Ziplock or other sealable bags or containers in various sizes
- Anything that's clean and will hold what you have

3 Organize / Categorize

There are many ways to do this but do what makes most sense for your collection...

- Like items together (for example, all letters together, all books together, etc.)
- Items combined that tell a story of an event or happening, political action, festival, etc.
- When possible, separate photos

4 Label / Describe

Don't keep us in suspense! Let us know what you've gathered as descriptively as possible.

Examples: New England Women's Music Festivals, 1984-1986; Our best community potlucks, 1980-1998; Women's Music Concert Flyers, 1975-1985. If possible, please include notes explaining the memorabilia and how they relate to your life as a Lesbian. Then, label the storage containers, files, and/or boxes.

5 Detail Photographs

It's helpful for photographs to have identifying information if possible. It's best to use a #1 or #2 pencil, a fine point pen, or an archival pen to put the details on the back of your photos or attached with a post-it note. For example, if you can, identify who's in the photo (from left to right), event, geographical location, approximate date, and the name of the photographer.

6 Prepare a Memory Vessel

If you're not yet ready to send your memorabilia to Wanderground, please refer to our form called "Preparing Your Memory Vessel for Transfer."