

LGBT-086 Marie DiFava Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
Archives and Special Collections
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA
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COLLECTION REGISTER

Name:	DiFava, Marie	LGBT-086
Material:	Papers (1987-2019)	
Volume:	1.0 linear feet (2 document boxes, 5 oversized folders, 3 audio cassette tapes, 2 artifacts, 1 book)	
Donation:	Donated by Marie DiFava, 2019	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Sarah Wakefield, December 2020	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Maria DiFava was born in Lebanon County, PA in 1953 where she grew up on a dairy farm. She graduated from high school and attended nursing school but became burned out, from the hectic schedule of schooling and work, and left the program shortly before graduation. She ultimately became an EMT volunteer and worked as a mail carrier for the US Postal Service. Marie married and had three children with her husband, whom she later divorced.

When she came out, DiFava started to look for gay organizations to join in her area. After travelling throughout Central PA, DiFava became frustrated at the lack of a lesbian community in Lebanon, thus the Lebanon County Lesbians organization was formed. The group met in DiFava's home starting in June of 1997, and for the next few years, she hosted meetings in her home until she was able to have help planning events and meetings. DiFava advertised through Lebanon County initially, but eventually turned toward the entirety of Central PA. Members were from all walks of life, young to old, and the organization created a space where women could make friends and relate to other women in the

county. The group disbanded in the winter of 2002 when DiFava wanted to include transwomen in the group and other members disagreed with this view.

DiFava still lives in Lebanon County today.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains 12 series: Lebanon County Lesbians, Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), Common Roads, Pride Fest of PA, General Organizations, Business Cards, Newspapers, Magazines, Miscellaneous Papers, Media, Artifacts, and Books.

The Lebanon County Lesbians category includes membership information, newsletters, and social group gathering memorabilia. The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) grouping contains newsletters and pamphlets advertising services. The Common Roads section is comprised of records regarding services and events, and the Pride Fest of Central PA category contains information about that annual event.

The General Organizations grouping is organized in alphabetical order by organization name and includes materials such as pamphlets, flyers, and information packets. The Business Cards section of the collection contains information about LGBTQ friendly businesses that DiFava collected to share with lesbians seeking resources. For preservation reasons the business cards have been removed from their original wallet and placed into business card sleeves, although the original wallet remains in the collection. The Newspapers category includes articles on the LGBTQ community, while the Magazines grouping contains full issues of LGBTQ magazines. The Miscellaneous Papers section is comprised of records that did not fit within the other established categories. The Media grouping includes cassette tapes of professional lesbian musical groups, while the Artifacts category contains a t-shirt, with a logo designed by Barry Loveland for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, and favors from an MCC anniversary event. The final category contains a book that was a thank-you gift to DiFava from Judy Chambers, who was the editor of the Lavender Letter at the time.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Lebanon County Lesbians (LCL)

1.1 Membership

1.1.01 “LCL” Social Group Membership Brochure – circa 2001

1.1.02 LCL Social Group pamphlet – circa 2001

1.1.03 “LCL Social Group Guidelines for Group Membership and Mailing list Privileges” –
Feb. 7, 2002

1.1.04 LCL Social Group tear-away flyer – circa 2002

1.2 Newsletters

1.2.01 LCL Newsletter – May/Jun. 2000

1.2.02 LCL Newsletter – Jul./Aug. 2000

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1.2 Newsletters (cont.)

- 1.2.03 LCL Newsletter – Sep./Oct. 2000
- 1.2.04 LCL Newsletter – Nov./Dec. 2000; Jan./Feb. 2001 (same newsletter)
- 1.2.05 LCL Newsletter – Mar./Apr. 2001
- 1.2.06 LCL Newsletter – May/Jun. 2001
- 1.2.07 LCL Newsletter – Jul./Aug. 2001
- 1.2.08 LCL Newsletter – Sep./Oct. 2001
- 1.2.09 LCL Newsletter – Nov./Dec. 2001
- 1.2.10 LCL Newsletter – Mar./Apr. 2002
- 1.2.11 Announcement about continuation of the LCL Newsletter – Feb. 6, 2002
- 1.2.12 Email edition of LCL Women’s Group Newsletter – Apr. 13, 2002
- 1.2.13 Email edition of LCL Newsletter – May 3, 2002
- 1.2.14 Email chain discussing a color copier and printing a new flyer – Apr. 8, 2002

1.3 Social Group

- 1.3.01 Potluck Summer Picnic Invitation with map – Jul. 1999
- 1.3.02 General Invitation to “Climb the Mountain” – Sept. 1999.
- 1.3.03 Hiking Trip to Rickett’s Glen invitation with maps and hiking directions – May 2000
- 1.3.04 2nd Annual LCL Social Group Picnic invitation – Jun. 2000
- 1.3.05 Email of picture from white water rafting trip – Jul. 10, 2000
- 1.3.06 2nd White Water Rafting/Mountain Bike Adventure invitation – circa 2000
- 1.3.07 Social Group & Potluck flyers – circa 2000
- 1.3.08 Paper photo of group on rafting trip at Jim Thorpe River Adventures – June 23, circa 2000
- 1.3.09 Trip flyer for Outer Banks, NC – circa 2003

Series 2 Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)

2.1 Newsletters

- 2.1.01 Spirit Wings newsletter – Jul., Aug. & Sep. 2006
- 2.1.02 Spirit Wings newsletter – Mar. 2008

2.2 Flyers and Pamphlets

- 2.2.01 Easter flyer – May 10, 1998
- 2.2.02 Letter to the Congregation – Aug. 3, 1999
- 2.2.03 Singles Group flyer – circa 2000
- 2.2.04 Pamphlet – circa 2000
- 2.2.05 “Square Dance with Susquehanna Squares” hosted at MCC of the Spirit – circa 2000
- 2.2.06 Vision of Hope MCC pamphlet – circa 2000
- 2.2.07 “Help Support MCC of the Spirit Help Support Pride” lottery calendar – circa 2006

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2.2 Flyers and Pamphlets (cont.)

- 2.2.08 MCC of the Spirit & Voices of Spirit present “A Christmas Musical Celebration of His Kingdom there Shall Be No End,” musical program – Dec. 18, 2011
- 2.2.09 MCC of the Spirit & Voices of Spirit 35th Anniversary Banquet program – Oct. 24, 2015
- 2.2.10 Sunday Bulletin, Fourth Sunday of Pentecost – Jun. 25, 2017
- 2.2.11 MCC of the Spirit & Voices of Spirit “The [illegible] Christmas Story: The light of his love” event program – Dec.16

Series 3 Common Roads

- 3.01 The Crossroad Directory of Gay Friendly Businesses & Organizations – Fall/Winter 1997
- 3.02 “Safe Zone” pamphlet – circa 2000
- 3.03 Donation encouragement letter – circa 2000
- 3.04 “The Moveable Feast” a list of historical gays – circa 2000
- 3.05 Cordier, Derek J. Attorney of Law “If you are Gay or Lesbian Why a Will is a Must! pamphlet – circa 2001
- 3.06 EGAL Partnership Fund Grants list – circa 2001
- 3.07 Fall Achievement Benefit, 8th Annual Benefit flyer – circa 2003
- 3.08 Donation thank-you letter – Feb. 21, 2003
- 3.09 *Jim in Bold* showing poster – Sep. 28, 2003 (see oversized OBS)
- 3.10 Donation Thank-you letter – Oct. 19, 2004

Series 4 Pride Fest of Central PA

- 4.01 Pride Fest Booklet – Jul. 31, 1999
- 4.02 Official Central Pennsylvania Pride Guide – Jul. 27, 2002
- 4.03 Central PA Pride Fest’s Unity Parade 2006
 - GLBT Continental Breakfast invitation – Feb. 25, 2006
 - Application for participation
 - Rules and Regulations for Parade Participants
 - General donation form
 - Flag donation form
- 4.04 “Pride Festival of Central PA Official Pride Guide” Booklet – Jul. 30, 2016

Series 5 General Organizations

5.1 AIDS Community Alliance

Pamphlet – circa 1995

5.2 Alliance, Inc.

“Open and Affirming Ministries” pamphlet – circa 1995

Series 5 General Organizations (cont.)

5.3 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Facts about Suicide – circa 1995

5.4 American Mosaic

Knoebles Grove Amusement Park “Gay Day” – Aug. 9, 2003

5.5 American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley

“The Subject Sd Sex: Removing the Veil of Secrecy,” a letter from Ed Silverman –
Aug. 19, 1999

5.6 Berry, Delores P. Evangelistic Ministries

Pamphlet – circa 2000

5.7 Business Association of Gays and Lesbians

Letter from Stephen J. Keene to Members and Friends – Mar. 18, 1999

5.8 Capital Blue Cross Pennsylvania Blue Shield

“No-Nonsense AIDS Answers,” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.9 Center for Women’s Creative Expression’s

Woman’s Drumming Workshop, “A Weekend with Ubaka Hill” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.10 Central PA Womyn’s Chorus

“Music in Our Mother’s House” flyer – May 10, 2003

Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2006

Lebanon Area GLBT Groups Collaborative Kick-Off event – Oct. 25, 2007

Central Pennsylvania Women’s Music Festival flyer – Aug. 19th

The Central PA Womyn’s Chorus Invites You to Join Us pamphlet – circa 2006

5.11 Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Annual Meeting & Reception pamphlet – Jan. 28, 2008

Pamphlet – circa 2008

5.12 Churches, LGBT Affirming

Programs – circa 2000

5.13 Country Western Dance Club

Capital City Stampede membership application pamphlet – circa 2000

5.14 Faith Groups for Justice

Faith Groups for Justice pamphlet – circa 2001

Mel White event for Faith Groups for Justice program – Nov. 28, 2001

Series 5 General Organizations (cont.)

5.15 Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

Membership pamphlet – circa 2000

5.16 GLAD Alliance

Short list of Bibliographies from Open & Affirming Ministries – circa 2000

5.17 Good Samaritan Hospital

“GSH Employee Assistance Program” pamphlet – circa 2000

The Crisis Intervention/Information & Referral Central pamphlet – circa 2000

5.18 Greater Harrisburg Foundation

“Equality for Gays and Lesbians Partnership Fund” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.19 The Green Room

Grand opening email flyer – May 2, 2003

5.20 Keystone Conference

Program booklet and registration packet materials – Mar. 20-24, 2019

5.21 Keystone State Gay Rodeo

Event Booklet, flyer, and ticket stub – Jun. 24-25, 2017

5.22 Lancaster Domestic Violence

Information packet – circa 2000

5.23 Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women

“Out of the Shadows” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.24 Lancaster Theological Seminary

“The Body: Expressed” Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness Week booklet

– Nov. 20, 2002

5.25 Lavender Hearts Reading’s Pride Store

Flyer – circa 2000

5.26 Lavender Letter Center Piece

Flyer – Feb. 1999

5.27 Lebanon Family Health Services

AIDS Services Provided pamphlet – circa 2000

Series 5 General Organizations (cont.)

5.28 The Lesbian Alliance of South-Central Pennsylvania
Newsletter – Sep. 1, 2001

5.29 LGBT Community & Religious Organizations of Central PA
Directory pamphlet – circa 2000

5.30 Lutherans Concerned
Pamphlet – circa 2000

5.31 Mental Health Association of Lebanon County
Letter from Janet R. Frick to Marie – Oct. 8, 2001

5.32 Millersville University Allies
Letter from MU Allies to “Whom it may concern” – Oct. 8, 1997
“Open the Door to Allies” Millersville University’s Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender and
Gay Rights Group for Everyone – circa 2000

5.33 The Names Project
Aids Quilt booklet – 1992
“The Names Project: AIDs Memorial Quilt” at Lebanon Valley College pamphlet –
Apr. 16-18, 1993
“Names Project: Aids Memorial Quilt” catalog – 1996
“The Quilt in the Capital” information packet – Oct. 11-13, 1996
“Not All Battles Are Fought with a Sword” commemorative program – Oct. 11-13, 1996
“The Aids Memorial Quilt” history and facts packet – Apr. 1998
“The Fabric of a Memorial” Aids Quilt fact page – circa 1998
“Names Project Susquehanna Valley Chapter” pamphlet – circa 1998

5.34 National Mental Health Association
“Depression: What you need to know” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.35 Olivia Feel Free LGBT Cruises & Resorts
Catalogue – Spring 2003

5.36 Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force
Donor’s letter – Nov. 7, 2005

5.37 Progressive Social Network
SLAM: A LGBTQ Colloquium Event Program – Jun. 17, 2017

5.38 Rainbow Lighthouse
Newsletter – Oct. 2001

Series 5 General Organizations cont.

5.39 Rainbow Mountain Resort

Pamphlet – circa 2000

5.40 San Francisco AIDS Foundation

“AIDS...and Lesbians” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.41 Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center of Lebanon County

Surviving Sexual Abuse and Addiction: A Guide for Survivors of Sexual Abuse –
circa 2000

“Have you Heard” – circa 2000

5.42 Sisterspace of the Delaware Valley

“Sisterspace Weekend” registration and info packet – Sep. 10-12, 2004

5.43 St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

“A Celebration of God’s Inclusive Love” pamphlet – circa 2000

5.44 Susquehanna Club

10th Anniversary pamphlet and membership application – 1999

5.45 Transgender Education Association of Central PA

Pamphlet – circa 2006

5.46 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York

Unitarian Universalism Pamphlet – circa 2000

Beech Tree Concert Series flyer – Fall 2002/ Spring 2003

LGBT Committee & Interweave Spring Conference event flyer – Apr. 8

Social Justice Organizations in The Unitarian Universalist Association –
Jan. 1998-Sept. 28, 2003

5.47 United Church of Christ

Pamphlet – circa 2000

5.48 United Community Center of S.J. Inc

Postcards (2 different types) – circa 2000

5.49 Unity Church

Welcome packet – May/Jun. 2003

5.50 The Velvet Rope

Monthly calendar – Aug. 2002

Series 5 General Organizations (cont.)

5.51 Westboro Baptist Church

West Baptist Church protest flyer – Jul. 23, 2003
“What is an Appropriate Christian Response to Homosexuality?” pamphlet – circa 2003
Day of Unity program and related emails – Sept. 24, 2003
Newspaper clippings (3) – circa 2003
Oversize newspaper clippings (2) – circa 2003 (see oversized OBS)

5.52 Women, Create!

Newsletter – Apr. 2006

5.53 Women’s Circle

“The Fine Arts of Balance” The Women’s Circle pamphlet – Sept. 15-17, 2006
Women’s Circle letter from Amy E. Skillman to Marie DiFava – Jan. 10, 2006
“Looking for the Perfect Aunt” The Women’s Circle and Common Road application pamphlet – Feb. 13, 2006

5.54 Woods Campground

New Gay Campground flyer – May 2004

5.55 World’s Aid Day ‘99

Information flyer - Dec. 1999

5.56 YMCA

“Domestic Violence in Gay Relationships Does Exist, Help is Available” pamphlet – circa 2000
Gay & Lesbian Support Group for Survivors of Sexual Assault &/or Domestic Violence flyer – undated

Series 6 Business Cards

- 6.01 “Suede” Pop/ Jazz Diva Extraordinaire
- 6.02 The U Group
- 6.03 Common Roads
The Renaissance Education Association, Inc
KAS PAGE BA/ CAC II, CCJS, Addiction counseling
MCC of the Spirit
Jacqueline Piersol Saylor, CEJ, CAAP, Certified Experimental Therapist
Frank Herbert, Artist
The Names Project
The Woods Campground
The Center for Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights

Series 6 Business Cards (cont.)

- 6.04 Healing Touch
Priscilla G. Ginolfi RNC MS, Counselor
Waddell & Reed, Financial Services
Forever Books
National Domestic Violence Hotline
Derek J. Cordier, Attorney at Law
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Central PA Chapter (PFLAG)
PLGTF Hot Line
Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition
- 6.05 Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force of Harrisburg and Philadelphia
Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.
The Greater Harrisburg Foundation
Open, York County Community Archives
Ed Silverman, Ed. D., FAACS, Certified Sex Therapist
Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis Services of Cumberland County
Health Quest
- 6.06 Stevie Falk, Ph. D., Licensed Psychologist
Stallions/ Twin Peaks
August Jewelers
Mindy S. Goodman, Attorney at Law
Springfield Counseling
News Passages
Sabrina Lay, Electrolysis Permanent Hair Removal
Photo Video Connections
The Center for Wellness
- 6.07 Evening of Illusion
Mary Beth Backenstose, R.N., M.S., Counseling and Psychotherapeutic Therapy
Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition
ASKGLSH.org
Palmyra Church of Brethren
Kate Daney, Mortgage Consultant
Moments in Time – Dawn Buckingham, Photographer
Equality Advocates Pennsylvania
Altland's Ranch
- 6.08 Hotline Numbers for Various Organizations
6.09 Original Business Card Holder

Series 7 Newspaper Clippings

- 7.01 “Couple fights for equal paternal rights,” “Homosexuals have been adopting for years in Lancaster County” *Intelligencer Journal* (Lancaster) – Mar. 5, 2002
(see oversized OBL)
- 7.02 “Lack of same-sex benefits is costly” – circa 2005
- 7.03 “New Lesbians & Gay Literature Group Blossoms in Lancaster” – circa 2005
- 7.04 “Wanting in: Gays seeking right to adopt children of their partners” *Intelligencer Journal* (Lancaster) – circa 2005
- 7.05 “Gay is Okay at Region’s Colleges” *Alternative Central* – Nov./Dec. 2005
(see oversized OBS)
- 7.06 “Rather than marriage, let’s talk about civil rights” *Patriot News* (Harrisburg) –
Apr. 18, 2006
- 7.07 “Author suggests book could help those abused – Oct. 19, 2006
- 7.08 “The Savvy, Salty Political Saint” *Newsweek* – Dec. 24, 2007

Series 8 LGBT Publications

- 8.01 *Central Voice* – Sep./Oct. 2007 (see OBS)
- 8.02 *Lesbian Connection* – Sep./ Oct. 2001
- 8.03 *Lesbian Connection* – Nov./Dec. 2001
- 8.04 *Progressive Voices* – Aug. 1999
- 8.05 *The Ridgeleaf Magazine* – May 2003
- 8.06 *The Wheel of the Year* “A Calendar for Earth Religion” magazine – circa 2005

Series 9 Miscellaneous Papers

- 9.01 History of Wigstock packet – Aug. 15, 1999
- 9.02 “Suicide: Are We Our Brother’s Keeper?” *Self-Help & Psychology Magazine* – circa 2000
- 9.03 “Today” poem (author unknown) – circa 2000
- 9.04 *The Vagina Monologues* Program – Feb. 3, 2002
- 9.05 Lowe’s Domestic Partner Benefits, Geisinger Health Plan – Jan. 2006

Series 10 Media

- LGBT-086-C01 “Bad Hair Day” by Jamie Anderson – 1993
- LGBT-086-C02 “Free to Be” by Marsha Stevens with Ken Caton & LeRoy Dysart – 1987
- LGBT-086-C03 “T.L.O. Stone Soup: Seeking Higher Ground” – 1998

Series 11 Artifacts

- LGBT-086-AC01 “GLSH (Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg)” White XL T-Shirt –
circa 1990

LGBT-086 – Marie DiFava (cont.)

Series 11 Artifacts (cont.)

LGBT-086-AC02 MCC of the Spirit 35th Anniversary Banquet favor including
pin, pen, and mesh bag wrapped in ribbon - Oct. 24, 2015

Series 12 Books

Mariechild, Diane & Marcelina Martin. *Lesbian Sacred Sexuality*. Wingbow Press: California, 1995.
[SC-LGBT 305.48 M334I]