

**Finding Aid to the Ann Valliant Papers
(#2023-04)**

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Ann Valliant papers

Collection Number: 2023-04

Physical Description: 8.75 linear feet (7 cartons)

Creator: Ann Valliant

Date (inclusive): 1940s-2020s, bulk 1970s-2010s

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Ann Valliant (8/13/1945-8/4/2022) was a lesbian writer, mother, small-business owner, friend to photographer Cathy Cade, Siddha Yoga ashram devotee, community leader and activist who spent the last fifty years of her life living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her most influential writing was the *Womancraft Guide Manual* in 1974, which was an early touchstone in second wave feminism. The collection contains various creative writings by Ann, journals, business documents, photographs, scrapbooks, a vast amount of correspondence (in the form of letters and cards), and personal documents (ranging from Gurumayi/Ashram, music, wedding planning notes and substance abuse recovery).

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Ann Valliant Papers (#2023-04), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights: Copyright to material has been transferred to the GLBT Historical Society. All requests for reproductions and/or permission to publish or quote from material must be submitted in writing to the GLBT Historical Society Archivist.

Acquisition Information: The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Ann Valliant in August 2022.

Processing Information: Finding Aid was created by Jamie Arrambide, a graduate student in Library and Information Sciences, who was supervised by Isaac Fellman, an archivist at the GLBT Historical Society, in 2023. Processing of this collection was part of an internship through the San Jose State MLIS program.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they

were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Ann Valliant, born Margaret Ann Valliant, spent her early years in Arkansas and Oklahoma, where she learned carpentry skills that would serve her and her community for her whole life. She was also an intellectual, publishing *The Womancraft Guide Manual* in 1974, which would inform feminist theory and writing.. After recognizing her identity as a lesbian while living in the Boston area, she moved to Oakland, CA. In 1981, she had her son Loren via sperm donation with her partner Bobbi LaNoue, who remained her friend and co-parent after breaking up. She was the leader of the gardening team at her ashram, the Yoga Siddha Ashram.. She spent twenty years living within a five minute walk of her ashram and went to sister ashrams in South Fallsburg, NY and India to absorb the teachings of her guru Gurumayi. Her spiritual journey was also informed by her connection to God and her path out of addiction. She was friends with noted feminist photographer, Cathy Cade, and was part of her *A Lesbian Photo Album* collection, a work that looked into the lives of several lesbians, their communities, activism, and families. She met Marilyn in 2001 at a women's dance event, and would later marry her. Marilyn, also known as John, was a butch dandy and longtime Berkeley school teacher. They eventually split up, and Ann spent the last years of her life with her partner Mariko. Ann became a grandmother in September 2004. Ann started several business ventures, including selling blue green algae, and spent the bulk of her professional career as a bookkeeper, accountant, and operations consultant. She kept in touch with friends and family around the country through letters and yearly holiday cards. She eventually was diagnosed with ALS. She invited close friends, family and community members to her end of life celebration, and passed peacefully on August 4, 2022.

Scope and Content: The collection contains a wide variety of materials, with the bulk being papers and photographs from throughout her life. Included are her writings, from poems to correspondence (including letters, cards, and her yearly holiday missive), creative writings for both school and various journals, her notes on *Womancraft Guide*, personal journals and notebooks she kept for her spiritual life and recovery from substance abuse. She also kept personal documents, such as business or financial documents, her wedding planning notes and records, papers concerning Gurumayi, her teachings, and Ashram business. She also kept miscellaneous items and ephemera, like sheet music from Christmas concerts, certificates, her son's schoolwork, old planners and address books. There is a box of photographs, starting in the 1940s until the end of her life, with the bulk from the 1980s (when her son was born) and on, mainly of family gatherings, trips, friends, the ashram, and events she attended with Marilyn (John). There is a box of scrapbooks, and a box of assorted audiovisual materials and sentimental items (DVDs, CDs, tapes, books, personal mementos).

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ

Lesbians

Religion & Spirituality

Activism

Addiction & Recovery

Feminism

Marriage Equality

San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

Container Listing

Carton 1

- 1:1 A Lesbian Photo Album, 1980-1987
- 1:2 A Lesbian Photo Album 2, 1980-1987
- 1:3 Correspondence (Gurumayi), 1987
- 1:4 Correspondence (Christmas letter), 1988-2004
- 1:5 Correspondence (General), 1975- 2000s, undated
- 1:6 Correspondence (Received), 1950s-2000s, undated
- 1:7 Correspondence (cards), undated
- 1:8 Correspondence (cards), undated
- 1:9 Correspondence (cards), 1950s-1980s, undated
- 1:10 Correspondence (cards), 1990s
- 1:11 Correspondence (cards), 1990s-2000s
- 1:12 Correspondence (cards), 2000s
- 1:13 Correspondence (cards), 2000s
- 1:14 Creative Writing, 1972-1982
- 1:15 Creative Writing, undated
- 1:16 Poetry. 1960s-2000s, undated
- 1:17 Womancraft Guide Manual, 1974
- 1:18 Womancraft Guide Manual, 1974

Carton 2

- 2:1 Womancraft Guide Manual, 1974
- 2:2 Womancraft Guide Manual, 1974
- 2:3 Womancraft Guide Manual, 1974
- 2:4 Womancraft Guide Manual, 1974
- 2:5 Zines & contributed writings, 1974-2003
- 2:6 Zines & contributed writings, 1994-2000s
- 2:7 Ann & John's wedding, 2008
- 2:8 Ann & John's wedding, cards (1), 2008
- 2:9 Ann & John's wedding, cards (2), 2008
- 2:10 Ann & John's wedding, cards (3), 2008
- 2:11 Business documents, 1980s-2000s, undated
- 2:12 Business documents (2), 2000s, undated
- 2:13 Business documents (welfare, food stamps), 1980s
- 2:14 Business documents (financial aid, transcripts), 1970s-2000s, undated
- 2:15 Personal documents (AA & NA), 1980s
- 2:16 Personal documents, Gurumayi (ashram, travel documents, retreats, financials), 1980s-2001
- 2:17 Personal documents, Gurumayi (letters), 1980s-2002, undated
- 2:18 Personal documents, Gurumayi (Siddha Yoga Ashram), 1988-2002, undated
- 2:19 Personal documents, Gurumayi (Siddha Yoga Ashram), 1980s-2004, undated

2:20 Personal documents, Gurumayi (Siddha Yoga Ashram)1990s, undated

Carton 3

3:1 Personal documents (Loren, motherhood, school), 1980s-2013, undated

3:2 Personal documents (assorted certificates), 1979-2017

3:3 Personal documents (miscellaneous), 1979-2019, undated

3:4 Personal documents (miscellaneous), 1950s-2022, undated

3:5 Personal documents (sheet music), undated

3:6 Personal documents (sheet music), undated

3:7 Personal documents (sheet music), undated

3:8 Journals (address books, planners), 1982-2002

3:9 Journals (address books, planners), 1995-2002, undated

3:10 Journals (address books, planners), undated

Journals, 1970s-2000s, undated

Carton 4

Journals, 1970s-2000s, undated

4:1 Oversized photos, 1970s-1990s, undated

Carton 5

5:1 Photographs, 1940s-1970s

5:2 Photographs, 1980s-1990s

5:3 Photographs, 1980s-1990s

5:4 Photographs, 1990s

5:5 Photographs, 1990s

5:6 Photographs, 1990s

5:7 Photographs, 1990s

5:8 Photographs, 1990s

5:9 Photographs, 2000s

5:10 Photographs, 2000s

5:11 Photographs, 2000s

5:12 Photographs, 2000s

5:13 Photographs, 2000s, undated

5:14 Negatives, 1990s, undated

Carton 6

Scrapbooks

Carton 7

Assorted audio visual materials (CDs, DVDs, videotapes), books & personal items

Books

Blues Harp

Dawson-Deaton Pioneers to Texas

Dear Mom: Thank You for Everything
Just for Today (revised)
Love Makes Your Heart Happy!
Melody Fun
My Song is in My Blood
The I-Ching Workbook
We Sing for Christmas

CDs & DVDs:

India 2006 selected slides
Ann, India, 2/8/2006
Rock of India 2006, #1 of 2
Ravenlight India, 2006
Ann, India, 9/27/2006
Jane Lurie Media
Ann's 60th Birthday party, 8/13/2005
Ann's 60th Birthday chant, 8/13/2005
Ann's 60th Birthday, sharing & dancing, 8/13/2005
Executive Portraits, Ann V., 2005
Ann Valliant & John Dominic (Marilyn) Bruno Wedding & Celebration of High Femmes & Dyke
Dandies, July 26, 2008, final version (6 copies)
Ann's Birthday Mix, volume 1, 8/12/2005
Ann's Birthday Dance Mix, volume 2, 8/12/2005
Ann's ASL stories (2)
Kodak picture CDs (6)
Ann's Birthday & Laura Tow's CDs #8 Waltz 1st List
Hanky Panky & Black Velvet
Wedding Dance #3, by Sherri White & Shiva Black White, Ann & John's wedding, 7/26/2008
Line Dance CD for Ann & John's wedding, by Sherri White & Shiva Black White, 7/26/2008
Ann & John's wedding, photo CD (draft), 7/26/2008
Ann & John's wedding: wedding group, ceremony & reception, by Virna Low. Low resolution, black & white.
Ann & John's wedding: wedding group, ceremony & reception, by Virna Low. High resolution loaded on Flickr.
Photos by Cathy Cade of Ann & John's wedding
John & Ann wedding, Laura Tow series
John & Ann's wedding, portraits with names by Katherine Copenhaver
John & Ann's honeymoon in Provincetown, Massachusetts. July 29-August 9, 2008. Plus wedding dress alterations by Bonnie Carpenter.
John & Ann's wedding photos with names by Cathy Cade & Laura Tow
Wedding Dance Mix #1 by Sherri White & Shdiva Black White
Wedding Dance Mix #2 by Sherri White & Shdiva Black White
Ann's 60th birthday, 8/13/2005
National Geographic, The Geographic Project

Morgan & Taylor Wedding Weekend, 9/2005, Little Compton, R.I.
AV-BH The Winter Sun solstice pictures & script
Ann & John's wedding, 7/26/2008 (2 copies)
Ann & John's wedding, disposable camera shots (12)
John & Ann wedding, photos by anonymous using disposable cameras, edited & named
Cathy Cade winter solstice pictures (2)
Ann & John's wedding portraits by Katherine Copenhaver (2)
Rehearsal
Chant
River's land photos
River photos 2010-03
River's laptop misc.
Booksmart file, wedding guests
John & Ann wedding photos, B/F quotes, ceremony text
Gateway laptop new life, factory default disk (3)
System repair disk for New Life
System image for New Life, 12/14/2010 (3)
Microsoft
Unmarked

Personal Mementos

Assorted pins, stickers, buttons, etc.
Mammy figurine
Wish box
Handmade jewelry by Ann Valliant (5 necklaces, 1 apron)

Tapes (for camera)

Neley, Buck, Ann, Mary & Don, 4/1970, Arkansas
Bheema's Birthday
Ann's Birthday chant, 8/13/2005
Bheema's Birthday (2)

VHS

Lauren's Waldorf graduation