

Collection title: Marie Cartier Collection

Date: 1980 - 2021 [bulk 2012-2021]

Language of materials:

English

Physical location:

The Dr. Cartier Collection is stored in the Archives Room at the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives and in the Mazer Archives digital preservation system both locally and within cloud-based storage.

Creator:

Dr. Marie Cartier and the students and interviewees who participated in the projects.

Conditions governing use and reproduction rights:

The rights to this collection belong to the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. This collection is open for research.

Acquisition information:

When Dr. Cartier started to teach the Women's Studies class, she asked Angela Brinskele from the June L. Mazer Archives to come and speak to the class about how the archives can be a resource for them. This developed into a partnership with the archives that has lasted over ten years and counting. There are plans for more of Dr. Cartier's personal papers related to her artistic, activist, and scholarly work to be donated in the future.

Processing history:

During pre-pandemic times, Dr. Cartier's students would do ten hours of community service at the Mazer and bring their projects in to donate at the end of each semester. In post-pandemic times, students submit their work digitally and then archivists at the Mazer digitally preserve and archive their work.

Biography and history:

Dr. Marie Cartier is a professor, visual/performance artist, queer activist, poet, and theologian. She has been active in many movements for social change such as the Dandelion Warrior Project, the Rocky Flats Truth Force, and the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power. Dr. Cartier teaches at UC Irvine in the Film & Media Studies Department and CSU Northridge in Gender and Women's Studies and Queer Studies.

Dr. Marie Cartier was born in Exeter, New Hampshire in 1956. She grew up in Exeter, going to St. Michael's Catholic School, then St. Thomas Aquinas for two years, later moving to Exeter public school, while also taking a creative writing course at Phillips Exeter Academy as the only girl in the class. Dr. Cartier earned her BA in Communications from University of

New Hampshire with minors in Dance, Photography, and English. She then moved to Boston and worked as a journalist for *Gay Community News* and *Equal Times*. In the 1980s, she earned an MA in poetry from Colorado State, and in 1987 got an MFA in theater and an MFA in film at UCLA.

While in film school, Dr. Marie Cartier published *I am Your Daughter, Not Your Lover* and when the book was published, she attended a book conference where she met Patricia Warren. Through discussions with Patricia Warren, established the Dandelion Warrior Project, an initiative that provides a support system for incest survivors. The Dandelion Warrior project includes research, writing workshops, theater presentations and classes. At her poetry readings, Dr. Cartier would read an excerpt from *I am Your Daughter*, and then ask survivors to stand up at the end of the presentation to pledge to give up suicide as an option. Each survivor who would stand up was presented with a medal. Throughout the length of the project's existence, Dr. Cartier has given out over 2,000 awards to survivors who pledge not to kill themselves.

In 2002, she earned an MA in Art with a specialization in Sculpture at Claremont University. She remained at Claremont and pursued a PhD in Religion with an emphasis on women in 2010. While in Graduate school, Dr. Cartier conducted over 100 interviews of Lesbian women who were a part of the American butch-femme bar culture of the mid-20th Century for her thesis. This research was synthesized in Dr. Cartier's book *Baby, You Are My Religion: Women, Gay Bars, and Theology Before Stonewall* in 2013.

When Dr. Marie Cartier started to teach Women's Studies classes at CSU Northridge, she asked Angela Brinskele from the June L. Mazer Archives to come and speak to the class about how the archives can be a resource for her students. Angela began visiting classes and gave lectures about the Mazer Archives and the importance of oral histories for lesbian history, leading to the introduction of a student's learning to conduct oral histories themselves. For their final projects before the pandemic, Dr Cartier's students would volunteer for ten hours at the Mazer Archives and would focus their project on understanding the timeline of events relative to their interview. Post-pandemic, it was difficult to have students safely volunteer in person, so the interview portion of the project was expanded. Students conduct a one-hour interview of about ten to twenty questions interviewing survivors and elders of their community. These projects teach students how to do ethnographic work and engage them in intergenerational conversations, often leading to life-changing conversations and the establishment of lifelong mentors. The creative component is meant to honor the elder and interpret what they learned from their interviewer in a new way. The ongoing partnership between Dr. Cartier and the June L. Mazer Archives has lasted over ten years as students' work is donated each semester that the classes take place.

Scope and content note:

The collection contains student submissions of oral history interviews, final papers, artworks, and photographs, and Dr. Cartier's personal newspaper and magazine clippings.

The CSUN Undergraduate Student Oral History Interview Projects Physical Collection contains three boxes of student submissions which contain a cd or hard drive of a video or audio recording of an oral history interview with an elder, a creative piece such as a piece of art or personal writing, a written essay, and photos related to the oral history interview. The physical copies are stored in boxes with tops that have been signed by the students involved.

The Digital Collection of The CSUN Undergraduate Student Oral History Interview Projects contains a video or audio file, a photo, scan or digital piece of art or personal writing, a written essay, and photos related to the oral history interview.

Dr. Cartier's Personal Clippings + Ephemera is stored separately from the student projects and contains newspaper clippings and lists of resources about sexual abuse and incest. This subject was a large part of Dr. Cartier's activism and writings throughout her life.

Organization and arrangement:

This collection is in two series: Student submitted work and Marie Cartier's personal collection. Student submitted work is split into two sub-series: Physical Collections and Digital Collections.

Series 1 — CSUN Undergraduate Student Oral History Interview Projects

Sub-series 1.1 — Physical Collections

Sub-series 1.2 — Digital Collections

Series 2 — Dr. Cartier's Personal Clippings + Ephemera

Subjects and indexing terms (local):

Dandelion Warrior Project

Lesbian Activists

Lesbian Authors

Lesbian College Teachers

Lesbian Community – Los Angeles

Lesbian poetry

LGBTQ incest victims

LGBTQ sexual abuse

Marie Cartier

Sexually abused LGBTQ children

Survivors of sexual abuse (LGBTQ)

Victims of sexual abuse (LGBTQ)

Related collections:

Lillian Faderman Collection, Mazer Lesbian Archives

Jinx Beers Papers, Mazer Lesbian Archives

Finding aid creator:

This finding aid was created by Lia Burrowes, an Archival Studies MLIS student at UCLA, and was made as part of a Community-Based Archiving course taught by Dr. Michelle Caswell in the Spring of 2021.