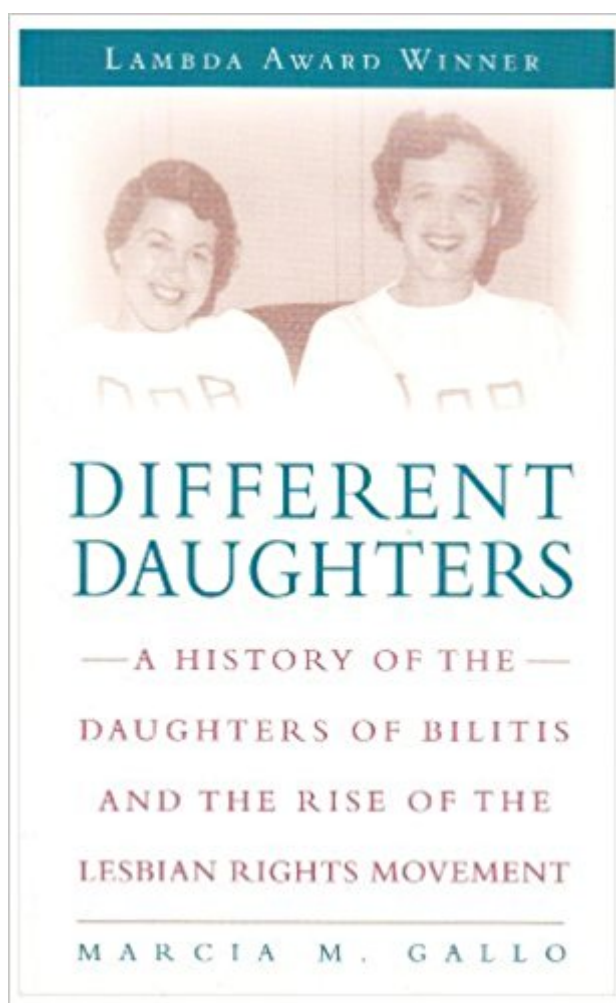


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Different Daughters: A History Of The Daughters Of Bilitis And The Rise Of The Lesbian Rights Movement



Synopsis

Nearly fifteen years before the birth of gay liberation, the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) was the world's first organization committed to lesbian visibility and empowerment. Like its predominantly gay male counterpart, the Mattachine Society, DOB was launched in response to the oppressive anti-homosexual climate of the McCarthy era, when lesbian and gay people were arrested, fired from jobs, and had their children taken away simply because of their sexual orientation. It was against this political backdrop that a circle of San Francisco lesbians formed a private club where lesbians could meet others in a safe, affirming setting. The small social group evolved over the next two decades into a national organization that counted more than a dozen chapters, and laid the foundation for today's lesbian rights movement. *Different Daughters* chronicles this movement and the women who fought the church and state in order to change not only our nation's perception of homosexuality, but how lesbians see themselves. Marcia Gallo has interviewed dozens of former DOB members, many of whom have never spoken on record. Through its leaders, magazine, and network of local chapters, DOB played a crucial role in creating lesbian identity, visibility, and political strategies in Cold War America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Marcia Gallo's look at early lesbian rights pioneers is exceptional and it contains information we need to know and hand down to "our" younger generations. The book is fascinating and important. *Fay Jacobs* Author of *For Frying Out Loud - Rehoboth Beach Diaries*

This book on the Daughters of Bilitis is well written and well researched. I was so happy to see it. I believe this was the first Lesbian Organization and it was quite active and successful even though it was founded in the 50's! It is a rare more intimate look into lesbian history in America. These women were amazingly brave and courageous even printing a newsletter (The Ladder) in a time when you could still be arrested for being a lesbian even in San Francisco- where it all began. For a very different part of lesbian history I would recommend the book "Boots of Leather Slippers of Gold" by Kennedy and Davis. This is about more working class lesbians in Buffalo. Very interesting read. Angela Brinskele, Director of Communications, The Mazer Lesbian Archives

Different Daughters is an important addition to the library of anyone interested in the development of the lesbian and gay rights movement in the United States. It covers the often neglected early days of the Lesbian Movement in the pre-Stonewall era from its humble birth in San Francisco and Los Angeles through its development into a broad based movement in the 1970s.

I had to read it for a class I was taking, but decided to go ahead and buy it too. And what can I say but that it was amazing. It gave me a very good basic overview of the history of lesbianism, specifically through the fifties to the seventies to now, and if you want a good history of the Daughters of Bilitis, this is the book for you.

A look at one of the first lesbian organizations in America. Yowza Beans, I didn't know.. Lots of famous people expoused them. Yowza. I liked Sally Field in "Not Without My Daughter." Neat look at Women's oppression. Who the Heck's "Bilitis." Gonna check it out. Radical like Body Count's "Cop Killer" and Steven Lee Beeber's "The Heebie-Jeebies at cbgb's". A radical account of that (Yo Steve!) wonderful life. Wunderbar as my German mother might say.

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