

## ***Limina Records 1977-2012***

### *Preliminary Finding Aid*

**Creator:** Limina

**Extent:** 11.8 linear feet (17 boxes), 8 digital files (13.19 megabytes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact [WLArchives@luc.edu](mailto:WLArchives@luc.edu) regarding use.

### **Administrative Information**

**Access Restrictions:** Consult archivist.

**Usage Restrictions:** None

**Preferred Citation:** Identification of item, date of item, box #-folder #, Limina Records, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

**Provenance:** Materials were donated to the WLA in 2015 and 2018 (WLA2015.20, WLA2018.35).

**Processing Information:** This collection is unprocessed. Information in the preliminary finding aid was gathered through an initial inventory. Preliminary finding aid created in 2024 by Kaylee Morlan. Finding aid updated December 2025.

**Separations:** One linear foot of duplicates was removed.

### **Administrative History**

Limina was a non-profit founded in Oak Park in 1985 by Cathaleen Rich, Lil Lewis, and Tesse Donnelly. Rich was an artist and psychotherapist, Lewis had experience in spirituality and ritual development, and Donnelly brought the perspective of Carl Jung's theories of psychology. The group was created to provide events, courses, and celebrations that enriched the lives of women. The name 'Limina' comes from the Latin root of the English word 'liminal,' an adjective meaning "on the threshold."

Limina was focused on highlighting the feminine experience and growing a sense of gender pride. Events were made up of meditation, discussion, performance art, and education. The group's annual events included summer and winter solstice celebrations, a Samhain celebration in the fall, and a Brigid Fest in the spring. The spiritual calendar mostly followed Celtic religious holidays, which the group correlated with phases in some women's lives such as menstruation and menopause.

In 1986, Limina was the target of public scrutiny from Catholic individuals and organizations regarding their use of Catholic churches and universities for meeting spaces. The group hosted a series of workshops for women in the spring of 1986 at venues such as Northwestern University, Mundelein College, and DePaul University. Critics included the south suburban chapter of Catholics for Responsible Action, who accused the group of witchcraft; and the Northwestern Review, a conservative student publication that labeled Limina as a pagan organization. Workshop attendees and Limina members defended the group in letters to the editor and in personal correspondence with Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, the then-Archbishop of Chicago.

Although the organization catered primarily towards women, some events were open to men, including the annual “Beating the Beltaine Blues,” an event for celebrating and reconciling the differences between men and women.

The organization hosted events in Oak Park and the greater Chicago area until 2009.

### **Scope and Content**

The Limina Records consist of 11.4 linear feet and span the years 1977-2012. Original provenance was maintained whenever possible. The papers consist of photographs, correspondence, flyers, posters, news clippings, and digital photos. Strengths of the collection include Limina event planning, summer and winter solstice celebrations, spirituality, and contemporary feminist art.

#### **Subjects:**

Spirituality  
Gender Identity  
Feminism  
Women’s Rights  
Creation of Rituals

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<b><i>Limina Records</i></b> <b><i>1977-2012</i></b>	
1	1	[Limina brochures]	undated
1	2	[Limina branded envelopes]	undated
1	3	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
1	4	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
1	5	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
1	6	[Limina donation mailing envelopes]	1997
1	7	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
1	8	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
2	1	[Metal candlestick]	undated
2	2	[Metal candle holder]	undated

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2	3	[Glass candle holder]	undated
3	1	Goddesses and Wild Woman [solstice]	1988
3	2	Limina flyers and newsletters [folded]	1987-1988
3	3	Limina flyers and newsletters [folded]	1988-1989
3	4	Limina	1996
3	5	Goddesses of Color project	1987-1989
3	6	Event: Earth/cosmic mother	undated
3	7	[Loose papers] [readings]	undated
3	8	Art	1994
3	9	Correspondence	1987
3	10	Summer Solstice	1989
3	11	Annual Report Filings	1997-2002, 2004
3	12	By-laws material	1985-1988, undated
3	13	Legal documents	1985-1986
3	14	By-law material	1985-1988, 2007
3	15	Healing woman at the threshold [conference]	1988
3	16	Miscellaneous	2002-2012
3	17	[Loose papers]	1997-2001, undated
4	1	[Living Goddesses]	undated
4	2	[Limina newsletters/notes]	2001
4	3	Limina Newsletters [1 of 2]	2001-2002
4	4	Limina Newsletters [2 of 2]	2001-2002
4	5	Limina [misc] [1 of 2]	1999-2005
4	6	Limina [misc] [2 of 2]	1999-2005
4	7	Song copies [1 of 2]	undated
4	8	Song copies [2 of 2]	undated
5	1	Mescalero Apache summer solstice tale	1991
5	2	Membership to be renewed	1991-1996
5	3	Menstruation workshop: Crossing the Red River	1991
5	4	Limina membership card templates	undated
5	5	Limina mailing list	1995
5	6	Lughnasa	1995
5	7	Lughnasa	1996
5	8	Limina board	1987-1990
5	9	Program documents	1985-1995
5	10	Goddess Materials	1984-1987
5	11	Financial Summaries	1987-1992, 1996
5	12	Metro correctional programs	1991
5	13	Mission statement	1993-1997
5	14	[Limina event materials]	1998, undated

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6	1	Envelopes and letters [loose documents]	1990, undated
6	2	Archetypes/stereotypes	1996-1997, undated
6	3	Checking	1996-1998
6	4	CFW grant application	1996-1997
6	5	Calendar-catalog	1993-1996
6	6	[Organizational papers]	1992-1993
6	7	Call to Action	1995
6	8	Cards, graphics	1991
6	9	Community development block grant [1 of 2]	1992-1994
6	10	Community development block grant [2 of 2]	1992-1994
6	11	“D” Clancy consultation	1990-1991
6	12	Council questionnaire	undated
6	13	Federal and state	1986-1992
6	14	Equipment receipts, warranties	1985-1987
6	15	Events	1988-1990
6	16	F.I.G. Publications	1996
6	17	Limina forms	1987, undated
6	18	Film fest	1994
7	1	Finance committee	1986-1990
7	2	Fundraising materials	1993
7	3	Finances [loose documents] [faxing] [1 of 2]	1990-1992
7	4	Finances [loose documents] [faxing] [2 of 2]	1990-1992
7	5	Assets and finances [loose documents] [faxing]	1991-1992
7	6	Financial documents [loose documents]	1987-1991
7	7	Limina [loose documents]	1987-1988, 1990
7	8	Preparing the solstice [loose documents]	1992-1993
7	9	Limina calendar [loose documents]	1992-1993
7	10	Limina miscellaneous [loose documents]	1985-1992
7	11	Limina newsletters [loose documents]	1989, 1991-1993
7	12	Limina calendar-catalog [loose documents]	1993-1994
7	13	Limina newsletters [loose documents]	1993-1994
7	14	Limina calendar/newsletters/pamphlets [loose documents]	1986-1988, 1992-1994
8	1	Limina calendar-catalog [loose documents]	1993-1994
8	2	Limina newsletters [loose documents]	1995-1996
8	3	Limina newsletters [loose documents]	1995-1996
8	4	Limina pamphlets [loose documents]	1986, 1997
8	5	Financial documents [loose documents]	1987-1990
8	6	Limina newsletters [loose documents]	1996
8	7	Limina calendar-catalog [loose documents]	1995-1996

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8	8	Limina pamphlets [loose documents]	1985, 1987
8	9	Fundraising letters	1989, 1991-1994
8	10	Summer Solstice article	1990
8	11	Echoes of Her Cosmic Voice	1988
8	12	[Loose documents]	1987-1989, 1992
9	1	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
9	2	[Blank Limina greeting cards]	undated
9	3	Samhain	1986-1993, 1996
9	4	Sales tax	1994
9	5	Reclaiming Our Three Faces: Maiden, Mother, Crone	undated
9	6	Ritual planning grid	undated
9	7	Rituals and prayers/litanies	1988-1989, 1992-1998
9	8	Rites of passage essays	1995-1996
9	9	[Blank registration forms]	undated
9	10	Red shoes	1994, 1996
9	11	Elements of Ritual council retreat	1993
9	12	Program committee	1991-1992
9	13	Program retreat	1995
9	14	[Limina program planning]	1988-1989, 1991
9	15	Program proposals	1996, undated
9	16	Newsletter	1992-1998
9	17	Phone call list	undated
9	18	[Poster sales]	1992
9	19	Publicity and PSAs	1989, 1993-1998
9	20	PR/publicity mailing list	undated
9	21	Personnel	1989, 1991-1994
9	22	Press mentions	1987-1998
9	23	Motherwise	1998-1999
9	24	Newsletters, etc.	1987-1997
9	25	Maiden mother crone	1986-1989, 1991-1993
9	26	Newsletters	1985, 1987-1998, 2004
9	27	Goddesses of Color receipts/charges	1992
9	28	Goddesses and Wild Woman	undated
9	29	[Limina event flyer]	1996
9	30	The Archetype of Initiation	undated
9	31	Good Shepherd Church	1993-1994
9	32	Women Growing Older	1993, 1996-1998
9	33	Women's Festival of the Arts	1993
9	34	Website	1996-1997

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9	35	Music	1988-1989, undated
9	36	Workshop: What Are You Doing with the Rest of Your Life?	1992
9	37	Warriors of Renewal	1996
9	38	Volunteers	1989-1990, 1992
9	39	Vernal Equinox	1992
9	40	Vernal Equinox	1993
9	41	Vernal Equinox	1994-1995
9	42	Vernal Equinox, Warriors of Renewal	1996
9	43	Suppliers	1988, undated
9	44	Vendors	1993-1994
9	45	Unity	1992-1993, 1996
9	46	Un-school	1994-1996, undated
10	1	Total Woman	1995-1996
10	2	Tonantzin	1987
10	3	Time sheets	1992-1995
10	4	Federal tax returns	1992-1993
10	5	501(c)(3)	1987-1988
10	6	[Blank declaration of gift forms]	undated
10	7	Spring flyer	1996
10	8	Sophia's Circle	1995-1996
10	9	Six Winter's Eves	1986-1987
10	10	Sales, items, receipts, etc.	1985-1988
10	11	Silent auction/Stephanie Bird	1993
10	12	Summer Sojourners	1993
10	13	Samhain	1992
10	14	Samhain, In Training to be Wise and Wild	1997-1998
10	15	Samhain	1989, 1993, 1996
10	16	Samhain, All Hallows Eve	1993-1994
11	1	Documents	1985-1987, 1994, 1998
11	2	Correspondence	1985-1987, 1992
11	3	Harvest Fest	1993-1994
11	4	Harvest Fest planning	1991, undated
11	5	Harvest Fest	1991-1992
11	6	Harvest Fest	1998
11	7	Golden Girl and Darksome Lass	undated
11	8	Goddesses and Wild Woman	1986, 1989, undated
11	9	Goddesses and Wild Woman	1987, 1989, undated
11	10	Five Winter's Eves	1986, undated
11	11	Five Autumn Eves	1985-1987

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11	12	Feminine Images of the Divine	1993-1994
12	1	Executive Director search	1996-1998
12	2	Echoes of Her Cosmic Voice	1988
12	3	Coming Home workshop	1991-1992
12	4	Controversy Material	1985-1986
12	5	Council retreat	1987, 1989, 1992-1995
12	6	Internal Revenue Service	1986-1987, 1997
13	1	Summer Solstice [negatives]	1993
13	2	Deirdre	undated
13	3	Summer Solstice	1993
13	4	Summer Solstice	1992
13	5	Summer Solstice	1992
13	6	Summer Solstice	1991
13	7	Summer Solstice program file	1991
13	8	Summer Solstice	1989-1991
13	9	Summer Solstice	1989
13	10	Summer Solstice	1988
14	1	Summer Solstice	1995-1996
14	2	Summer Solstice	1995
14	3	Summer Solstice [negatives]	1993-1994
14	4	GOC Process Notes [1 of 2]	1989-1991
14	5	GOC Process Notes [2 of 2]	1989-1991
14	6	Summer Solstice	1994
15	1	Summer Solstice	1987
15	2	Summer Solstice	1985-1986
15	3	Winter Solstice	1991, 1995-1996
15	4	Winter Solstice	1996-1997
15	5	Winter Solstice	1994-1996
15	6	Registration forms and directory	1993, 1996
15	7	Winter Solstice	1993-1994
15	8	Winter Solstice	1993-1994
15	9	Winter Solstice	1992-1993
15	10	Directory and receipts	1993
16	1	Winter Solstice	1991
16	2	Winter Solstice	1988, 1990
16	3	Winter Solstice	1988-1990, undated
16	4	Registration	1986-1987, undated
16	5	Event planning	1987, 1992-1997
16	6	Correspondence	1985, 1987, 1992-1996
16	7	Beltaine Blues	1990, 1996-1997

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16	8	Receipts	1993-1996, undated
16	9	Class Rosters	1977-1978
17	1	Directories	1984-1985, undated
17	2	Promotional Materials	1987, 1992-1996
17	3	Past Revenue	1986-1991
17	4	Revenue	1990-1991
17	5	Past Disbursements	1987-1991
17	6	Balance Sheets and Payroll	1986-1990
17	7	The Seasons of a woman's life [two rolled posters]	undated
17	8	[two Brigid's crosses]	undated
FF1 3	1	[Art prints] [posters] [oversize]	undated
FF1 3	2	Dancing to Freedom [posters] [oversize]	1992, undated
FF1 3	3	[Assorted Limina posters] [oversize]	1988, 1992, undated
FF1 3	4	News Clippings [oversize]	1987, 1990-1992, 1998
FF1 3	5	Healing Woman [posters] [oversize]	undated
FF1 3	6	The Seasons of a womans life [posters] [oversize]	undated
FF1 3	7	The Goddesses and the Wild Woman [posters] [oversize]	undated
n/a	n/a	Aphrodite banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	Artemis banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	Athena banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	Demeter banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	Hera banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	Hestia banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	Persephone banner [digital photo]	
n/a	n/a	White Fairy banner [digital photo]	