Catch One opened its doors in L.A. in 1972 as the nation’s first black gay and lesbian disco. Founder Jewel Thais-Williams described Catch One in May 1978 as “a relaxed atmosphere where folks seem to be more comfortable than at other places. ... Since it’s black owned, many customers feel they are part of things, and they are – they’ve made it happen as much as anyone else has.” Additionally, Thais-Williams founded the Village Health Foundation, a nonprofit healthcare clinic providing affordable care to disenfranchised groups, and, with partner Rue, founded Rue’s House, the first residential home for homeless women and children with HIV/AIDS. Rue’s House closed in 1997 and now has since reopened as The Village Manor, serving adults with substance abuse issues.

The Lesbian Tide, originally the newsletter of the Daughters of Bilitis Los Angeles chapter, became its own independent publication in September 1972. Lead by activist, writer and community organizer Jeanne Córdova, The Lesbian Tide became a nationally distributed publication highlighting the voices of the rising lesbian feminist movement of the 1970s. Describing her early involvement with the DOB and the Tide, Córdova remembers: “I was so glad when I found them, you know, because I thought, ‘Oh fantastic, political lesbians!’ I didn’t want my lesbianism to be just a matter of sexuality. I felt it was more political than that really.” Córdova and the Tide was instrumental in organizing a number of political gatherings including the West Coast Lesbian Conference at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1973.

Top: Tide staff members Ann Dozi (Features Editor), Jeanne Córdova (Founder and News Editor), and Barbara Jo Gelakte (Production Manager), whom Córdova refers to as “the triumvirate” and “the core staff,” 1976; Left: The Lesbian Tide, Vol. 2, No. 9 (April 1973), Jeanne Córdova Papers and Photographs. ONE Archives