Title: Judith Sandoval Visitacion Valley Gift of Stories Collection
Date (bulk): 1995-2009
Identifier/Call Number: SFP 94
Creator: Sandoval, Judith
Physical Description: 1 carton, 3 pamphlet boxes and 1 flat box(3.5 Linear Feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
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Abstract: The Judith Sandoval Visitacion Valley Gift of Stories Collection consists of over 4,000 black and white photographs of varying sizes, contact sheets, negatives and images on CDs of the Visitacion Valley community between 1998 and 2005.
Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English with some materials bilingual in Chinese and English.
Conditions Governing Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center's Photo Desk hours.
Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to publish of photographs must be submitted in writing to the Photo Curator. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Judith Sandoval Visitacion Valley Gift of Stories Collection (SFP 94), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
Gift.
Conservation note
During processing, the entire collection was re-folded and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes.
Biographical / Historical
Judith Sandoval is a local community activist with over fifty years of community organizing experience and photographer. Sandoval has a BA and JD and came into photography later in life at the age of 63 when she began working with the Visitacion Valley community in San Francisco. Sandoval was born in 1937 in San Francisco, raised in a multi-ethnic country town of 600, but returned to San Francisco for last 60 years. In Visitacion Valley, she was Program Director of Camp Fire Boys and Girls City Kids, Executive Director of Geneva Valley Development Corporation and Program Coordinator of The Village. Sandoval dedicates this Visitacion Valley Gift of Stories Collection to the Geneva Towers’ Families and four strong Valley Leaders, whose lives were intimately connected with the Valley: Brenda Lopez, Lela Jones, Evelyn Hill, and Missy Raglin.
Scope and Contents
The Judith Sandoval Visitacion Valley Gift of Stories Collection consists of over 4,000 black and white photographs of varying sizes, contact sheets, negatives and images on CDs of the Visitacion Valley community between 1998 and 2005. This Collection represents the work of local Visitacion Valley community activist and photographer Judith Sandoval, who, through her photography, documented the social, political and cultural events in the Valley during that time.
In the 1800’s, Visitation Valley was known as the Valley of the Windmills. In 1964, Geneva Towers, two twenty-story towers, was built for 400 families. By 1991, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) foreclosed on the private owners of Geneva Towers. The Towers had declined into an unhealthy and dangerous place, a place the San Francisco Chronicle called the “High-rise from Hell.” By 1995, the Geneva Valley Residents Council, Geneva Valley Development Corporation (GVDC), Visitacion Valley Task Force, HUD and City and County of San Francisco entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to revitalize the Valley by destroying the Towers public housing, but guaranteeing original Towers’ families the right of first refusal. The residents had to agree to destroy their home, but had the choice of how to destroy it. Because of lead and asbestos in the Towers, they were not imploded until 1998. It only took 10 seconds to destroy the home of 400 Towers’ families. GVDC assisted with the construction of the new housing and a multi-service community center called The Village. GVDC’s achievements included its role in the replacement of Geneva Towers with affordable, family housing in
partnership with Mercy Housing California that includes Heritage Homes (of which GVDC is co-owner), Britton Courts and John King Senior Community. The photographs document the community events while representing the significant needs of the community which are economic opportunity and development and education. The residents created the Visitacion Valley Jobs, Education and Training Project (VVJET). Additionally, the local council formed a partnership with San Francisco State University Urban Institute which helped link to a variety of institutions. This facilitated more programs for the community including Village Dancers. The Village Dancers was a partnership program with San Francisco State University’s School of Music and Dance and offered free dance classes taught by Dr. Albirda Rose and SFSU students. The Village Dancers had a yearly concert at SFSU campus. The history of the community was also documented through a California Council for the Humanities grant project, Stories of Valley: Circle of Elders. GVDC became Visitacion Valley Community Development Corporation maintaining as a non-profit organization focusing on strengthening the social, physical, educational and economic well-being of the Visiatacion Valley neighborhood. This Collection tells the stories, both creative and painful, of the journey of Heritage Homes families, from 1998 to 2005.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into three series: Series 1. Photographs; Series 2. Correspondence, clippings and ephemera and Series 3. Audiovisual.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Visitacion Valley (San Francisco, Calif.)
Visitacion Valley (San Francisco, Calif.)--Buildings, structures, etc.
Sandoval, Judith

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**Series 1. Photographs 1996 - 2004**

**Scope and Contents**

Includes photographs, contact sheets, negatives and digital files.

**Arrangement**

Follows initial arrangement created by photographer Judith Sandoval. Within that arrangement, it is loosely chronological.

- box 1, folder 1
  - Geneva Towers before implosion 1996
- box 1, folder 2
  - Geneva Towers, Candlelight Ceremony 1998
- box 1, folder 3
  - Geneva Towers, pre-implosion ceremony 1998
- box 1, folder 4
  - Geneva Towers, implosion 1998
- box 1, folder 5
  - Geneva Towers, after implosion 1998
- box 1, folder 6
  - Construction of Heritage Homes and Britton Courts 1999 - 2000
- box 1, folder 7
  - Opening of Heritage Homes and Britton Courts 2000
- box 1, folder 8
  - Wells Fargo gift to the Village August 18, 2001
- box 1, folder 9
  - Stories of the Valley: Circle of Elders grant project 2003 - 2004
- box 1, folder 10-15
- box 1, folder 16-38

**Neighborhood events 2000 - 2005**

**Scope and Contents**

Neighborhood events include Unity Walk, Hawn party (Samoan), greenway planting, Visitacion Valley Carnival and Wellness Fair, Sophie Maxwell Town Hall meeting, Sunnydale "Stop the Violence," Asian Pacific American Community Center, John King Senior Community Center opening, El Dorado Elementary School community peace walk Sunnydale through Sunnydale Housing Project, Asian Perinatal Advocates holiday party, community mural paint-in, Sunnydale vigils (one for Darnell Norman),
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
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| 1, 39-42   | Visitacion Valley Jobs, Education and Training Program (VVJET) graduations 2000 - 2003  
Scope and Contents  
Includes graduations from carpenter's apprenticeship, construction apprenticeship, and health tech programs. |
| 1, 43-45   | Village Dancers, concerts and performances 2005-2006 |
| 1, 46-49   | Renee Strong, Recreation and Park Director of Hertz Playground 2004-2005  
Scope and Contents  
Photographs of Renee Strong at work teaching dance lessons to community children and at home with her daughter. The photographs were displayed at Joe Leland Coffee Bar as a tribute to Ms. Strong for her dedication to the Visitacion Valley community. |
| 2, 1-2     | Community wedding June 29, 2002  
Scope and Contents  
Wedding celebration of Cliff and Julissa at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Festivities include Aztec dancers. |
| 2, 3       | Samoans 2006 |
| 2, 4-10    | District 10 2001  
Scope and Contents  
Includes Potrero Hill Projects, Islais Creek, Dogpatch, Potero Hill, Tunnel Road, Vistaction Valley, Little Hollywood, Hunters Point Shipyards and San Francisco Dump (Transfer Station). |
| 5          | Prints 2000 - 2004  
Digital copies 2014  
Scope and Contents  
34 CDs with jpegs and TIFFs of digitized photographs by Sandoval. |
| 3, 1-10    | The Village / Visitacion Valley Community Development Corporation / Geneva Valley Development Corporation 1995 -2007  
Scope and Contents  
Includes reports, newsletters, newspaper clippings, correspondence, flyers and pamphlets documenting events in the Visitacion Valley community. |
| 3, 11-13   | Stories of Valley: Circle of Elders 2003 - 2004  
Scope and Contents  
Stories of Valley: Circle of Elders was a California Council for the Humanities grant project. The files contain original grant application and supportive materials, promotional materials for the event and event surveys. |
| 3, 14      | Through Our Eyes by The Village Kids publication 1996  
Scope and Contents  
Publication of the Visitacion Valley Community Center’s after school Village Words Projects in partnership with San Francisco State University's Department of English undergraduate and graduate students. |
| 3, 15      | The Village Dancers program with San Francisco State University 2000 - 2009  
Scope and Contents  
Includes pamphlets, concert programs and newspaper articles about The Village Dancers. |
Series 2. Correspondence and ephemera 1995 - 2009

Photography shows 2003 - 2006
Requiem for Geneva Towers 2005
San Francisco Urban Institute, San Francisco State University 2002 - 2005
Chinese for Affirmative Action, reports and newsletters 2001 - 2003

Box 3, folder 16
Box 3, folder 17
Box 3, folder 18
Box 3, folder 19
Box 4


Separated Materials
25 DVDs of Village Dancers' concerts; Requiem for Geneva Towers; and Circle of Elders: Stories of Visitacion Valley. 3 VHS of Circle of Elders: Stories of Visitacion Valley.