**Contributing Institution:** California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections

**Title:** Ronnie Sandler Collection

**Identifier/Call Number:** SPC.2016.014

**Physical Description:** 18 boxes

**Physical Description:** 7.86 Linear Feet

**Date (inclusive):** 1942-2013

**Abstract:** This collection documents the work of Ronnie Sandler, an activist in the tradeswomen’s movement. Much of Sandler’s work focused on expanding women’s access to fields where they had not traditionally been employed, such as building trades and transportation. The bulk of the collection focuses on Sandler’s efforts to organize with tradeswomen’s organizations to access funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, in order to train women for nontraditional jobs. The collection contains organizational papers and correspondence related to these organizing efforts, as well as numerous manuals and reports related to women’s employment.

**Language of Material:** Collection material is in English.

**Access**

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

**Publication Rights**

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical materials and not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

**Preferred Citation**

[Title of item], Ronnie Sandler Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills

**Acquisition Information**

Donated by Pat Williams as part of the Tradeswomen Archives project at California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH).

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Evan Tucker, 2016.

**Biography**

Ronnie Sandler grew up in northern New England and earned a BA in psychology and education from Franconia College in New Hampshire in 1971. In 1972 Sandler began her career as a carpenter in New Hampshire, and would later go on to become a union activist in her chosen profession. In 1976 she became the first woman to join a trades union in Michigan when she became a member of the Detroit local of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. While in Michigan Sandler started a program called STEP-UP for Women, to prepare women for successful entrance into apprenticeship programs. In 1985 she created another iteration of this program in Vermont with funding from the Vermont Department of Education.

In 1987 Sandler founded Northern New England Tradeswomen Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women enter nontraditional careers. As executive director of Northern New England Tradeswomen Inc. Sandler was an active member of a coalition called Northeast Women in Transportation (NEWIT). This coalition was created to help the member organizations and other women’s advocates learn about accessing funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, to train women for jobs in the transportation industry. Sandler worked with NEWIT to put on several conferences about accessing ISTEA funds to involve more women in transportation careers. Sandler went on to start the firm Compliance U.S.A. which consulted on employment and civil rights related matters for construction projects.

**Scope and Content**

The papers and audiovisual materials comprising the Ronnie Sandler collection (ca. 1978-2001, bulk 1990-1998) document her career as an active member of the tradeswomen’s movement.

Much of the correspondence and organizational materials in this collection are related to Ronnie Sandler’s efforts to organize with other tradeswomen’s organizations to access funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, to train women for non-traditional jobs. These efforts include lobbying members of congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Labor, and state transportation agencies. ISTEA, which was signed into law in 1991 and expired in 1997, contained a provision in which ¼ of 1% of funding received by states could be used to train women and minorities for transportation jobs. As the executive director of Northern New England Tradeswomen Inc. Sandler also participated in coalition of organizations called Northeast Women in Transportation (NEWIT).
that was dedicated to making ISTEA funds available for job training for women. NEWIT organized conferences called IT'S ISTEA TIME and ISTEA II to strategize how to secure these funds from transportation agencies throughout the United States. The bulk of this collection consists of reports and manuals. The most frequent topics addressed in the reports and manuals are: ISTEA, women in non-traditional jobs, and sexual harassment in the workplace. Some of the documents are official statistics or reports from government agencies but the bulk of the manuals are from tradeswomen’s organizations like NEWIT.

Formats include organizational records, calendars, promotional materials, scholarly articles, business cards, newsletters and other publications, newspaper clippings, books, correspondence, receipts and financial documents, handwritten notes, photographs, VHS tapes, and tote bags.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in four series:


**Related Material**

The Ronnie Sandler Collection is part of the Tradeswomen Archives Project, which was initiated by CSU Dominguez Hills faculty member Dr. Vivian Price and the CSU Dominguez Hills Department of Archives and Special Collections. The Project includes the Price (Vivian) Collection, the Jane Templin Collection, the Shaw (Lynn Judith) Collection, the Williams (Pat) Collection, the Oregon Tradeswomen Collection and other collections.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Affirmative action programs—United States
Apprenticeship programs—United States
Building trades—United States
Discrimination in employment—Law and legislation—United States
Diversity in the workplace—United States
Nontraditional employment for women—United States
Occupational training for women—United States
Sex discrimination in employment—United States
Women—Employment—United States
Sexual harassment—United States

### Series I: Correspondence 1989-2001

Physical Description: 5 folders

- box 1, folder 1: Correspondence 1989-1992
- box 1, folder 2: Correspondence 1993-1995
- box 1, folder 3: Correspondence 1996
- box 1, folder 4: Correspondence 1997
- box 1, folder 5: Correspondence 1998-2001

### Series II: Organizational Materials and Notes 1978-2000; undated

- box 1, folder 6: Meetings and conferences 1978-1990
- box 1, folder 7: Meetings and conferences 1991
- box 2, folder 1: Organizational Materials and Notes 1992
- box 2, folder 2: Organizational Materials and Notes 1993-1996
- box 2, folder 3: Organizational Materials and Notes 1997-2000
- box 2, folder 4: Organizational Materials and Notes undated
- box 2, folder 5: Organizational Materials and Notes undated
- box 3, folder 3: Mailing lists undated
Series II: Organizational Materials and Notes 1978-2000; undated

Inventory of the Ronnie Sandler Collection SPC.2016.014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 4</td>
<td>Business cards undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 5</td>
<td>Floppy Disks undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 6</td>
<td>Name tags undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 7</td>
<td>Photographs undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 18</td>
<td>Plaque with photocopy of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America membership card undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 18, folder 2</td>
<td>&quot;Ronnie's Bulletin Board&quot; contains postcards, clippings, photographs, and other documents undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 18, folder 3</td>
<td>Notes, greeting cards, business cards, and other documents undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 18, folder 4</td>
<td>Framed stamp with an image featuring a tradeswoman undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series III: Reports and Manuals 1977-2013; undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 3, folder 8</td>
<td>Compliance USA, &quot;Proposal: Civil Rights Compliance Reviews and On-The-Job-Training Program Oversight&quot; (two copies) August 15, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 4, folder 1</td>
<td>Compliance USA, &quot;Annual Report December 1, 1998-November 30, 1999 for Special Services: Monitoring the OJT Program Conducting Contract Compliance Reviews Additional Supportive Services&quot; (two copies) December 27, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 4, folder 2</td>
<td>Compliance USA, &quot;Six Month Report December 1, 1998-June 30, 1999 for Special Services: Monitoring the OJT Program Conducting Contract Compliance Reviews Additional Supportive Services&quot; (two copies) July 30, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 4, folder 3</td>
<td>Compliance USA, &quot;Eight Month Report December 1, 1999-July 31, 2000 for Special Services: Monitoring the OJT Program Conducting Contract Compliance Reviews Additional Supportive Services&quot; (two copies) August 31, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 4, folder 4</td>
<td>Compliance USA, &quot;Annual Report December 1, 1999-December 6, 2000 for Special Services: Monitoring the OJT Program Conducting Contract Compliance Reviews Additional Supportive Services&quot; (two copies) December 29, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 4, folder 5</td>
<td>Compliance USA, &quot;Eight Month Report December 7, 2000-July 31, 2001 for Special Services Monitoring the OJT Program Conducting Contract Compliance Reviews Additional Supportive Services&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 2</td>
<td>NEWIT Interim Follow Up Report 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 3</td>
<td>Thinking and Working Out of the Box undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 4</td>
<td>On the Road to Equality 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 5</td>
<td>ISTEA on Tap 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 6</td>
<td>Welcome to It's ISTEA Time (Part 1) 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 7</td>
<td>Welcome to It's ISTEA Time (Part 2) 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 5, folder 8</td>
<td>ISTEA Funding for Supportive Services for Women and Minorities 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 1</td>
<td>ISTEA II Action Planning Institute 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 2</td>
<td>ISTEA II Action Planning Institute 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 3</td>
<td>What is a Non-Traditional Job? undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 4</td>
<td>FHWA Region 1 Civil Rights Workshop &quot;New Jersey-Moving Ahead! undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 5</td>
<td>Mother Truckers undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 7</td>
<td>Health Hazards in Construction undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 8</td>
<td>Careers in Transportation 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 9</td>
<td>Stopping Sexual Harassment 1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 10</td>
<td>A Manual on Sexual Harassment undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 11</td>
<td>A Supervisor's Guide to Ending Sexual Harassment undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 6, folder 12</td>
<td>Sexual Harassment in the Workplace 1990, 1998, undated</td>
</tr>
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box 6, folder 13  Dealing with Sexual Harassment undated
box 6, folder 14  Preventing Sexual Harassment 1992
box 6, folder 15  Sexual harassment/discrimination booklets 1991, 1992, undated
box 7, folder 1  State Internal Employment Data (FHA) 1990
box 7, folder 2  History of Women in the Trades 1996
box 7, folder 3  SEPTA Railworks Affirmative Action Final Report 1994
box 7, folder 4  Partnering for Women's Employment (Sections 1-3) 1998
box 7, folder 5  Partnering for Women's Employment (section 4) 1998
box 7, folder 6  Partnering for Women's Employment (section 5) 1998
box 7, folder 7  Partnering for Women's Employment (section 6-8) 1998
box 8, folder 1  Nuts and Bolts of NTO 1980
box 8, folder 2  Draft Program Guide (Part 1) 1990
box 8, folder 3  Draft Program Guide (Part 2) 1990
box 8, folder 4  Partnering for Women's Employment (Part 1) 1996-1997
box 8, folder 5  Partnering for Women's Employment (Part 2) 1996-1997
box 8, folder 6  Partnering for Women's Employment (Part 3) 1996-1997
box 9, folder 1  Directory of Non-Traditional Training and Employment Programs for Women undated
box 9, folder 2  Organizational Structure of USDOT FHWA, undated undated
box 9, folder 3  Congressional Monitor, An End to Gridlock? 1993
box 9, folder 4  Programs that Work 1994
box 9, folder 5  Step Up for Women 1980
box 9, folder 6  Building Up, Women in Building 1987
box 9, folder 7  A Handbook on Women in Firefighting 1993
box 9, folder 8  Addendum to Final Report for NEWIT Partnering for Women's Employment undated
box 9, folder 9  A Road Map for Women and Advocates 1986
box 9, folder 10  Tools of the Trade undated
box 9, folder 11  Our Nation's Highway undated
box 9, folder 12  On-the-Job Training 2006
box 9, folder 14  U.S. Department of Transportation 1988
box 9, folder 15  Problems of Women in Apprenticeship 1977
box 9, folder 16  Guidelines for Integration of Women into the California Fire Service 1990
box 9, folder 17  Still Excluded 2013
box 9, folder 18  Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training 1997
box 9, folder 19  Apprenticeship brochures 1996-1997
box 10, folder 1  From the Ground Up 2008
box 10, folder 3  Still Hostile 2007
box 10, folder 4  "When I Was Little I Didn't Know Girls Could Do That...," 1982
box 10, folder 5  Are Women Happy with "Men's" Work? 1988
box 10, folder 7  Women in the Skilled Trades and Other Manual Occupations 1989
box 10, folder 8  The Future of Tradeswomen 1995
box 10, folder 9  Working with Employers and Unions to Integrate Women into High Pay/High undated
box 10, folder 10  Finishing the Job 2013
box 10, folder 11  Working Women in Maine 2009
box 10, folder 12  Employment Policy Package 1993
box 10, folder 13  Milwaukee Nontraditional Feeder Program undated
box 10, folder 14  Customer Focus Group Report 1993
box 10, folder 15  Connecticut DOT and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women undated
box 10, folder 16  Getting the Job Done undated
box 10, folder 17  The Disability Rage 1992
box 10, folder 18  Women in Trades 1992
box 10, folder 19  Appendix B: ADA Accessibility Guidelines August 7, 1984
box 11, folder 1  The Nuts and Bolts of NTO 1981
box 11, folder 2  Making Ourselves at Home 1995
box 11, folder 3  Directory of Nontraditional Training and Employment Programs Serving undated
box 11, folder 4  Building Barriers 1993
box 11, folder 5  NEXTEA: The National Economic Crossroads Transportation Efficiency Act undated
box 11, folder 6  Women in Nontraditional Jobs 1978
box 11, folder 7  A Visionary and Vigilant Department of Transportation 1997
box 11, folder 8  Miscellaneous Reports and Manuals undated
box 11, folder 10  WOMEN Unlimited reports 1992-undated
box 15, folder 14  material related to education and apprenticeship 1994, 2002, undated
box 15, folder 1  material related to retention and recruitment 1995-1996; undated
box 15, folder 5  "On the Road to Equality- Women in Highway Construction", participant's manual, U.S. Department of Transportation
box 15, folder 6  Cumberland County Training Resource Center- articles, reports, and other material 1991-1995, 2007; undated
box 15, folder 7  U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, "National Tradeswomen Summit Excerpts" April 15-17, 1994
box 16, folder 3  material related to Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) 1998
box 16, folder 4  Wider Opportunities for Women- nontraditional surveys; "Respect that Woman" video guide; and "From Welfare to the Workplace: A Practitioners' Plan" 1995; undated
box 16, folder 5  Wider Opportunities for Women- "Montana NET: Training, Placing, and Retaining Women in Nontraditional Jobs" September 16-17, 1992
box 16, folder 6-7  Wider Opportunities for Women- "Working with Employers and Unions: What you Need to Know to Implement Workplace Solutions" circa 1995
box 17, folder 1  Western Regional Summit- Youth of Color and Women in the Highway Construction Trades, Oregon Department of Transportation 2004
box 17, folder 2  "A History of Women in the Trades for Integration with the Gender Equity in Education and the Workplace Curriculum" 1996
box 17, folder 3-5  "A Curriculum Guide for Achieving Equity in Education and the Workplace compiled by Curriculum Resource Center of Maine revised 1997

Series IV: Publications, News Media, and Promotional Materials 1943-2006; undated

box 12, folder 1  Civil Rights Law (Part 1) undated
box 12, folder 2  Civil Rights Law (Part 2) undated
box 12, folder 3  Civil Rights Law (Part 3) undated
box 12, folder 4  Miscellaneous publications and articles 1989-2006
box 12, folder 5  Miscellaneous publications and articles 1943-2006
box 13, folder 1  VHS tapes - Respect that Woman; 60 Minutes 1995
box 13, folder 2  VHS tapes - NEWIT Press Conference Boston, MA 10/91; Working Women 1994
box 13, folder 3  Tote bags, hat, stickers, and other ephemera 1989; undated
box 14  T-shirts and mugs undated
box 13, folder 4, drawer 3.4  Calendars, signs, and posters 1998-2006

oversize calendar and posters located in map case, drawer 3.4