Register of the Los Angeles Women's Liberation Movement Collection, 1970-1976

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Register of the Los Angeles Women's Liberation Movement Collection, 1970-1976

Collection Number: MSS 023

Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Los Angeles Women's Liberation Movement Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1970-1976
Collection number: MSS 023
Creator: Smith, Barbara
Extent: 1 record storage box
1 cubic feet
Repository: Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research.
Los Angeles, California
Language: English.

Access
The collection is available for research only at the Library's facility in Los Angeles. The Library is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Researchers are encouraged to call or email the Library indicating the nature of their research query prior to making a visit.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Los Angeles Women's Liberation Movement Collection, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, Los Angeles.

Background
The collection was donated by Barbara Smith, a local activist in the women's movement in the 1970s. She was very active in the L.A. Women's Liberation Center (also known as the Los Angeles Women's Center) where she played a key role in organizing the Liberation School. Later she was active in the Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and with Federally Employed Women (FEW).

The Los Angeles Women's Liberation Center was founded in 1970. Among its activities were consciousness raising and campaigns regarding issues affecting women, issues such as abortion rights, prisoner rights, gay and lesbian rights, and
labor conditions.

Scope and Content

The collection is divided into three series: L.A. WOMEN'S LIBERATION CENTER, NOW, and FEW.

The following local periodicals associated with the Women's Liberation Center are separated from the collection:

Everywoman - May, 1970 - May, 1972
Women's Center Newsletter - June, 1972 - December 1972.

The L. A. WOMEN'S LIBERATION CENTER series contains numerous issues of the Center's newsletter as well as various other documents related to the Center. Folder 3 includes early papers describing a proposed women's center for L.A. and the original working structure of the Center as of January 5, 1970. It includes a list of the original board of directors, member organizations, and contact persons. Folder 8 contains documents relating to the Feminist Women's Health Center's legal battles over its advocacy of menstrual extraction as a method of abortion. Folder 4 contains articles on the Feminist Theater.

The Center's monthly newsletters are particularly useful in identifying key individuals and activities of the early L.A. women's liberation movement. Vol. 1, No. 3 contains an account of the participation of the Women's Center Labor Committee in a 1970 strike of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), Local 854, at the Van Nuys RCA plant. Vol. 1, No. 5 has an account by a participant from the Center in the August 29, 1970 Chicano Moratorium, a large demonstration in East L.A. to protest the draft and the Vietnam War. Vol. 2, No. 10 notes the campaign of Margaret Wright, a Center activist and representative of Women Against Repression (a black women's liberation group) to run for the L.A. Board of Education. Vol. 2, No. 5 includes the call for a meeting to plan the founding of a westside women's center as well as the newsletters of the newly-formed Westside Center.

Folder 11 of the NOW series contains a report on the 1973 National NOW conference held in Los Angeles.