Finding Aid for the Lesbian Catholics Together records, 1986-1997 LSC.1951

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Online finding aid last updated 23 August 2017.
Title: Lesbian Catholics Together records
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.1951
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.4 linear feet (1 document box)
Date (inclusive): 1986-1992
Abstract: The group Lesbian Catholics Together was concerned with carving out space for discussion and community specifically geared towards Lesbian Catholics. This collection contains liturgical materials, bulletins, brochures, and retreat information, all which reflect their mission.
Language of Materials: Materials are in English.
Physical location: COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Creator: Conference of Catholic Lesbians.
creator: Lesbian Catholics Together
Conditions Governing Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Lesbian Catholics Together Records (Collection 1951). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.
Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Provenance unknown.
This collection is part of an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW) and the UCLA Library.
Processing Information
The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive at UCLA is an outreach and collection-building partnership between the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (CSW) and the UCLA Library. These collections expand the pool of primary source materials available to researchers and to the community at large. This partnership was initiated by CSW and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to inventory, organize, preserve, and digitize more than eighty Mazer collections pertaining to lesbian and feminist activism and writings.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 6956723
History
Lesbian Catholics Together is a group that was formed out of Dignity USA. Dignity USA began in 1969 as an extension of Father Patrick Nidorf's work. It began as a word of mouth, in-house, membership-based ministry organization that has grown into a national educational, religious, social, and political organization striving to work from within the church to change official policy and opinion. Lesbian Catholics Together began informally in the summer of 1986 when a small number of longtime Dignity members started to hold women-only liturgies and services, attempting to ameliorate the low attendance of women at Dignity functions. In the beginning, the goal remained to expand the community of Dignity, introducing women to its services. In 1987, direct association with Dignity ended and Lesbian Catholics Together (LCT) became its own organization. Informally organized, it relied on individual member contributions and volunteer support. With the purpose of "providing a safe and accepting atmosphere in which to socialize, worship and share spiritual journies [sic]," LCT provided monthly liturgies and paraliturgies as well as retreats, monthly support groups, and collaborations with other Catholic organizations and gay and lesbian organizations. In their fourth year, LCT became affiliated with the Conference of Catholic Lesbians.
The idea for a national meeting of Catholic Lesbians was first discussed at a retreat for lesbians sponsored by New Ways Ministry in May 1981. Six months later, members from New York City drew up a proposal for a national conference for Catholic Lesbians, held in November 1982 at Kirkridge Center in Bangor, Pennsylvania. Over 100 women participated in that historic gathering, coming from throughout the United States, Canada, and Argentina. The catalyst for the conference came from the fact that none of the group's participants belonged to women's, Catholic, or gay–encouraged activities or environments, either social or spiritual, that affirmed this unique identity. Shortly after the Kirkridge conference the organizers met to form the Conference for Catholic Lesbians. The original goal of the organization was to act as a clearinghouse of information and resources for Catholic Lesbians. Over time, this expanded to the formation of local groups, bi-annual national conferences, a quarterly newsletter, regional events and retreats, and participation in a number of Catholic coalitions.

Scope and Content
This collection contains promotional and outreach materials for Lesbian Catholics Together (LCT) as well as liturgical and service documentation. Also included are newsletters from the Catholic Conference for Lesbians as well as some materials from Dignity, the organization from which LCT formed.

Organization and Arrangement
Arrangement follows original order of materials.

Dignity/USA Records

Subjects and Indexing Terms
June L. Mazer Lesbian Archive at UCLA.
June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives.
Lesbian Catholics Together -- Archives
Catholic gays--Religious life.
Lesbians--Pastoral counseling of.

Box 1, Folder 1  Images Spring 1990 - Spring 1992
General Physical Description note: stapled, printed paper
Scope and Contents note
Seven newsletters from the Conference for Catholic Lesbians.

Box 1, Folder 2  Dignity materials 1986 November - 1987 November
General Physical Description note: printed paper
Scope and Contents note
Liturgical materials and flyers for Dignity gatherings and services.

Box 1, Folder 3  Promotional materials 1988 November - 1992 July
General Physical Description note: printed paper
Scope and Contents note
Flyers, brochures, promotional materials for services provided by Lesbian Catholics Together.

Box 1, Folder 4  Retreat materials 1989 November - 1991 May
General Physical Description note: printed paper
Scope and Contents note
Retreat itineraries and liturgical materials.

Box 1, Folder 5  News clippings 1990 March - 1991 November 1
General Physical Description note: photocopies
Scope and Contents note
Photocopies of newspaper clippings related to gay and lesbian issues within the church.
Box 1, Folder 6  

**Liturical materials 1988 December 18 - 1992 March 21**

- General Physical Description note: printed paper
- Scope and Contents note
- Liturgical materials, bulletins, music, and service information.