

Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington) Photograph Collection, 1971-1981

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington)
Title	Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington) Photograph Collection
Dates	1971-1981 (inclusive) 1971 1981 1971-1972 (bulk) 1971 1972
Quantity	111 photographic prints 25 slides
Collection Number	PH0628
Summary	Photographs of the YWCA at the University of Washington, which provided feminist services and programming in the 1970s.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Additional Reference Guides	
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

The Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington) was established in 1895 as the first women's organization on campus. In 1930, the YWCA (UW) moved off campus after the state legislature interpreted the "separation of church and state" to prohibit religious organizations from being housed on the university campus. It merged with the YMCA (UW) in 1940, and the two organizations operated jointly for thirty years in Eagleson Hall, located off campus at 15th Ave. NE and E. 42nd St., and later at 4525 19th Ave. N.E. The YWCA (UW) declared its autonomy from the YMCA (UW) in 1970 and moved to 4224 University Way N.E. Over the course of the ensuing decade, the YWCA (UW)

pioneered in feminist programming, providing an extensive range of services and activities not only for UW students but for women throughout the Seattle area.

Three examples of the YWCA's progressive programming were Mechanica, the Lesbian Resource Center, and the Aradia Clinic. Mechanica began as a women's cooperative garage and auto mechanics course in 1972, but by 1975, it had evolved into an information service for women seeking to enter apprenticeships in the skilled trades and other non-traditional jobs. The Mechanica staff provided job counseling, promoted affirmative action hiring of women and minorities, and pushed for affirmative action placements in union apprenticeships. In 1980, the program ended due to loss of funding.

The Lesbian Resource Center (LRC) began as the Gay Women's Resource Center in 1971. The center provided peer counseling support services to lesbians in the Seattle-King County area. The LRC also worked to make changes within the YWCA (UW), pushing for more lesbian membership on the board of directors. The Lesbian Resource Center became independent in 1980.

The Aradia Clinic opened in 1972, after a year of organizing by women in the YWCA (UW) who wanted to address the need for a women's health care clinic in the community. The clinic was constructed by over sixty women under the leadership of a female architect. The construction work by the women was indicative of the early spirit of Aradia, which strongly encouraged patients to take their health into their own hands. The Aradia staff offered annual examinations, pregnancy detection and counseling, self-health classes, workshops, and abortion procedures. In 1973, Aradia legally separated from the YWCA (UW), although it continued to be housed in the same building until 1978. The Aradia Women's Health Center was still in operation as of 2004 as a non-profit feminist health center dedicated to the advancement of women's health and reproductive choices.

Content Description

The collection documents activities of the YWCA (UW) during the early 1980s, such as a Halloween mask workshop offered by the Women's Cultural Center and remodeling work on the office. The bulk of the collection contains photographs relating to the Lesbian Resource Center, including portraits of co-coordinators Shelley Reddick and Kathy Timmons. There is also a series of photographs of women at work in the skilled trades that were made for a brochure advertising Mechanica's services. (The brochure is part of the YWCA (UW) records, Accession no. 1930-21.) The Aradia Clinic's construction by an all-female crew in 1972 is also documented.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Restrictions may exist on reproduction, quotation, or publication. Contact Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries for details.

Administrative Information

Processing Note

Processed by Noella Natalino, 2003.

The visual materials in this collection were relocated from the Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington) Records, Manuscript Collection 1930, in the Special Collections division in 2003 and 2004.

Detailed Description of the Collection

YWCA (UW) People and Activities

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Folder	Item		
1	1	Tudi Haasl, accountant Served in later years as the co-executive director.	1971
1	2-3	Jeanne Mandel, secretary	1971
1	4	[Caitlin?]	1971
2	5-15	Women's Cultural Center and Temple Day Care Center Halloween mask workshop	1980
3	16-21	Remodeling	1981

YWCA (UW) Programs

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Folder	Item		
4	22-38	Aradia Clinic Eighteen slides of the clinic's construction by an all-female crew.	1972

Lesbian Resource Center - People

Folder	Item		
5	39-46	Mary Eaton	1971-1972, n.d.
6	47-54	Kathy Timmons	1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7	55-62 Kathy Timmons and Shelley Reddick	1971, n.d.
8	63-71 Kathy Timmons - with others	1971-1973
9	72 Shelley Reddick, Julie Coryell, and Meredith Stannard	1972
10	73-81 Groups of people	1971-1972

Lesbian Resource Center - Events

Folder	Item		
11-13	82-104	Gay Pride Events, Hollywood, CA	1971
14	105-109	Gay Women's West Coast Conference	1971
15	110-116	Protest re: media and advertising	1972

Mechanica Skilled Trades Brochure Photographs

Folder	Item		
16	117-120	Construction	n.d.
17	121-123	Printing	n.d.
18	124-125	Welding	n.d.
19	126-129	Miscellaneous	n.d.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Feminists--Washington (State)--Seattle--Photographs
 Gay liberation movement--California--Los Angeles--Photographs
 Lesbian activists--Photographs
 Lesbians--Washington (State)--Seattle--Photographs
 Women construction workers--Photographs
 Women welders--Washington (State)--Seattle--Photographs
 Women--Employment--Washington (State)--Seattle--Photographs
 Women--Washington (State)--Seattle--Societies and clubs

Corporate Names :

Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington)--Photographs

Young Women's Christian Association (University of Washington) Photograph Collection, 1971-1981
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv57807>

Form or Genre Terms :

Photographs

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Visual Materials Collections (University of Washington)

2004 (Last modified: 4/19/2018)



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