

Ruth Baetz papers, 1976-1999

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Baetz, Ruth
Title	Ruth Baetz papers
Dates	1976-1999 (inclusive) 1976 1999
Quantity	0.90 cubic feet (3 boxes including 3 sound cassettes)
Collection Number	6155 (Accession No. 6155-001)
Summary	Interview transcripts, manuscript drafts, correspondence, and other papers related to Seattle writer and counselor Ruth Baetz and her book, <i>Lesbian Crossroads</i>
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	Access to portions of the collection is restricted. Contact University of Washington Libraries Special Collections for details.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Ruth Baetz began dating women in college and was closeted from her family until 1976. In that year, her mother rejected Baetz in a series of letters after she came out and began interviewing women for *Lesbian Crossroads*. At the time, people could be fired and lose their housing, friends, parents, and custody of their children for being a lesbian. Half of the women interviewed for Baetz's book requested anonymity and some published under pseudonyms. Her book was unusual at the time as it explored the experiences of women of different races, ethnicities, physical abilities, ages, classes, and life circumstances. Baetz earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington and provided counseling services to lesbians at the Seattle Counseling Services for Sexual Minorities and at Family Services. She lives in Seattle with her wife.

Content Description

The Ruth Baetz papers contain interview transcripts, working files, manuscript drafts, book reviews, notes, sound cassettes of radio interviews, and other publicity and ephemera related to Baetz's book *Lesbian Crossroads*. Also included is correspondence, including personal correspondence between Baetz, her parents, and her siblings when Baetz came out as a lesbian, as well as other

correspondence and writings related to Baetz's career as a social worker and her personal identification as a lesbian woman.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Creator's copyrights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Ruth Baetz, 2016-11-28

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Contracts and agent notes	1979-1981
1/2	Naiad Press	1981-1987
1/3	Other writings	1979-1983
1/4	Promotion and miscellaneous papers	1980-1993
1/5	Lesbian newspapers	1986-1992
1/6	Workshops	1980-1981
1/7	Book organizations	
1/8	Coming out letters to and from Baetz's parents and other family members	1976-1987
1/9	Letters to and from Baetz's sisters	1976-1986
1/10	<i>Lesbian Crossroads</i> Manuscript Part I	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/11	<i>Lesbian Crossroads</i> Manuscript Part II	
2/1	Classifications and organizations	undated
2/2	Original transcripts	1977-1978
2/3	Original transcripts	1976-1980
2/4	Releases	1978-1979
2/5	Other writings by Ruth Baetz	1977-1983
2/6	Sound cassettes of radio interviews for <i>Lesbian Crossroads</i>	1970s-1980s
3/1	<i>Lesbian Crossroads</i> Transcripts Restricted.	1970s
3/2	<i>Lesbian Crossroads</i> Transcripts Restricted.	1970s

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Authors, American--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Lesbian authors--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Lesbians' writings
 Lesbians--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

Personal Names :

Baetz, Ruth--Archives
 Baetz, Ruth--Family
 Baetz, Ruth--Interviews

2017 (Last modified: 1/31/2020)



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