

MS-133, Dayton Women's Liberation Records

Collection Number: MS-133

Title: Dayton Women's Liberation

Dates: 1970-1975, 1984

Creator: Dayton Women's Liberation

Summary/Abstract:

Records consist of a fairly complete run of the organization's newsletter which gives information about the group's meetings and activities and includes short articles discussing the politics and ideology of the Women's Movement. In addition, the collection contains leaflets, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other printed materials.

Quantity/Physical Description: .25 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-133, Dayton Women's Liberation Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The records of Dayton Women's Liberation were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in August of 1983. They were donated by Mary Morgan, an early and active member of the organization.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at

http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms133.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

MS-91, Ruth Herr Papers

MS-119, Women's Center Records

MS-123, League of Women Voters, Dayton Ares Chapter

MS-129, Dayton Women Working Records

Processed by: Dorothy Smith, Fall, 1983. Finding aid reformatted and updated to DACS by Toni Vanden Bos, 2015.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into two series:

Series I: Newsletters

Series II: Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers

Historical Note:

The women's movement arrived in Dayton in September, 1969. Cheryl Radican, a young political activist who was on the staff of Dayton's underground newspaper, The Minority Report, attended a national underground newspaper conference in Ann Arbor. During the conference, women who had been in consciousness raising (CR) groups in other parts of the country called on the other women at the conference to form a separate caucus to discuss their roles in the anti-war and new left movements. At this caucus meeting, there was also talk of a new movement, women's liberation.

Radican returned home and formed Dayton's first consciousness raising group. This first group grew rapidly by word of mouth along such local networks as the anti-war movement, the Unitarian Church, The Minority Report newspaper, and Dayton's Citizens for Democratic Action. The group soon split into four, and by January, 1970, a new CR group was forming every month.

Feeling a need to organize and direct the energy coming out of these early CR groups, several women got together and formed Dayton Women's Liberation (DWL) early in the Spring of 1970. They saw DWL as an umbrella group to (1) maintain communication between CR groups; (2) provide a clearing house for actions, activities, and problems; and (3) chart new directions and discuss feminism and politics. The group was, by design, loosely organized and non-hierarchical. Any women could come to the monthly co-ordinating meetings, decision was by consensus, and lots were drawn at the beginning of each meeting to choose the evening's chair.

Among the many projects and activities to come out of these co-ordinating meetings were a speaker's collective to handle requests from the community to speak on women's liberation, a newsletter collective to put out a monthly newsletter, feminist collective, and an abortion referral service. DWL also held several 3-day Spring and Fall retreats for women, ran workshops at local universities, and organized political demonstrations.

Early in 1973, Dayton Women's Liberation organized a collective to obtain funding and open a women's center in Dayton. They were successful in this effort and the Dayton Women's Center

opened in January, 1974. After the Center opened, DWL continued with a scale-down version of its old activities, published its newsletter until early 1975, then disbanded.

Scope and Content

The records of Dayton Women's Liberation (DWL) provide primary source materials for studying the women's movement in Dayton during the early 1970's.

Series I is a nearly complete run of the Dayton Women's Liberation Newsletter, a monthly publication containing information about DWL's meetings and activities as well as short articles discussing politics and ideology. The Newsletters cover the years 1970-1975 and give a sense of the evolution of the group, its priorities, problems, and accomplishments.

The material in Series II is a mixed collection of correspondence, leaflets, newspaper clippings, papers concerning the establishment of the Women's Center in Dayton, a listing of the consciousness raising groups in Dayton, materials produced by DWL's Education Task Force, and other miscellaneous items. Of particular interest in this series is a copy of a special issue of the Dayton-based periodical, Here and Now. This special issue (July-August 1970) was a collective effort of several women from DWL and features a collection of locally produced poetry, graphics, photography, and political articles on subjects related to women and the women's movement.

Materials in this collection are arranged chronologically within each file folder.

Subject Terms:

Subjects (General)

Feminism – Ohio – Dayton

Feminism – Periodicals

Material Types

Newsletters

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: NEWSLETTERS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Dayton Women's Liberation Newsletter	1970-1972
	2	Dayton Women's Liberation Newsletter	1973
	3	Dayton Women's Liberation Newsletter	1974-1975

Series II: CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	4	Correspondence	1970-1973
	5	Educational Task Force	1973-1974
	6	Leaflets and Broadsides	1970-1974
	7	Clippings	1970-1974
	8	Women's Center Material	1973-1974
	9	<u>HERE and NOW</u>	July/Aug 1970
	10	50 th Anniversary Celebration of Women's Suffrage	1970
	11	Lecture delivered by Mary Morgan at Wright State University	1972
	12	Directory of Consciousness Raising Groups	1973
	13	Reunion	1984