And Justice for All: Women’s Liberation and The Feminist Movement during the 1970s and 80s.

Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting
May 23, 2013
Carey C. Shuart Women’s Archive and Research Collection

- Established in 1996 at UH MD Anderson Library
- Two main objectives: Collection and research
- Collects the papers of Houston and Texas Women and the records of Houston area Women’s organizations
- Affiliated with UH Women’s Studies Program
- Currently there are over 60 collections and growing
Materials Collected

• Shuart Women’s Archives is interdisciplinary and designed to be a community and scholarly resource

• Papers of Individual Women—correspondence, scrapbooks, news clippings, and photographs

• Organizational Records—founding documents, history, charters, by-laws, minutes, yearbooks, membership rosters, agendas, publications, programs, newsletters, and photographs.

• Oral histories and Living Archives Series
Beyond TARO

- Digital Library
- Archon
- UH Special Collections Blog/FB
- Friends of Women’s Studies and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies Dept.
- Women’s Resource Center/University Commission on Women
- Tours to interested constituencies and donors
- Annual Table Talk
- Publications-Houston History Magazine, other pubs.
- Women’s Archives Exhibit (Fall-October 2013)
- Living Archives Series-every 3 months
- Brown Bag Series
- Instructional Support
Digital Library

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON LIBRARIES
DIGITAL LIBRARY

HOUSTON AND TEXAS FEMINIST AND LESBIAN NEWSLETTERS

Search this Collection

Browse this collection

SHARE
SHARE
Carey C. Shuart Women’s Archive & Research Collection

The Carey C. Shuart Women’s Archive and Research Collection contains the records of women’s organizations and the papers of prominent Texas women. These materials document the range of women’s concerns, the ways in which women have come together to achieve their goals, and the impact they have had on the world around them. In fulfilling its mission to gather and preserve unique materials for research, the archive has amassed more than fifty collections and continues to grow.

Contact Info

Vince Lee
Archivist
vole@uh.edu
713-743-9753
Feminist Movement- 1970s

• Roe v. Wade (1973)
• Reproductive Rights
• ERA
• Gloria Steinem
• Battle of the Sexes
• Women in college and the workforce
Nikki Van Hightower

- Big mover/shaker Houston Feminist Movement
- Women’s Advocate of Houston (Fred Hofheinz)
- Organizational Committee for IWY for 1977 NCW in Houston
- KTRH Radio host/personality
- Executive Director of HAWC
- Harris County Treasurer
TO ALL DELEGATES AND VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S CONFERENCE:

On behalf of the citizens of Houston, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our community. We are proud to be the host city for the National Conference on the Observance of International Women’s Year. This conference represents the goal of equal opportunity for all citizens—a goal that we support and actively strive for here in Houston.

The national conference and the 56 State and Territorial meetings which preceded it have caused both individuals and governmental leaders to stop and reflect on the wasted human resources that result from discrimination against half the citizens of our country and the benefits of encouraging all people to reach their full potential in life. Changing values and life styles can be confusing and frightening, but it is less so when people are informed of the necessity and the positive benefits of the change. This conference is important because it will provide information, education, and a forum for discussion that will assist all people in the transition.

Women workers have been essential to the successful operation of Houston City Government. What is more, their contribution increases as their opportunities broaden. Our society can only become stronger as chances for individual development improve.

Again, welcome to Houston and thank you for sharing this historic moment with us.

In Humankind,

Fred Hofheinz, Mayor

Nikki Van Hightower, Women’s Advocate
IT'S TIME!

CITY HALL

Another Step Up For Women

HOUStON, TEXAS

Congratulations to our very own Nikki Van Hightower No. 1 Feminist and New Advocate for Women
STATE OF THE WOMEN IN HOUSTON

Compiled by
Dr. Nikki R. Van Hightower
Women's Advocate
City of Houston

At the Request Of
The Women's Rights Coordinating Council

With the Assistance Of:
Barbara Hogetz, Houston Breakthrough
Janice Blue, Houston Breakthrough
Lynne Mutchler, American Association of University Women
Kay Whyburn, Women's Equity Action League
Gene Martin, Model Cities Department, City of Houston
Barbara Saknowitz, Child Care '76
Nancy Douglas, Criminal Justice Task Force, League of Women Voters
Kathryn Whitehair, Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union
Mary Buxton, The Continuing Task Force on Education for Women, Texas State
National Organization for Women
Glenna Cloud, Houston Women's Health Collective
Linda Cuyk, Administrator of the Rape Treatment, Detection and Prevention
Program, City of Houston
Pokey Anderson, Point Blank Times
Dr. Nona M. Sisco, Chief, Chronic Illness Control Division, City of Houston
Beth Kendrick, National Organization Against Sexism in the Media
Dr. Susan MacManus, University of Houston, Department of Political Science
After analyzing the 1977 employment statistics as reported to the federal government in the EEO4 Report, it must be concluded that for women affirmative action in Houston City Government comes close to being a total failure. Women continue to be discriminated against in hiring, promotions, salaries, and benefits (although that matter is not covered here). Our City Government continues to set a poor example for equal opportunity to private employers. Setting up offices of affirmative action, advocacy, or liaisons is merely window dressing when our elected officials fail to change the discriminatory policies that are highlighted by these offices or when they then fail to select administrative leadership who is committed to equal opportunity for all people.

Final Report Submitted by:

[Signature]

Dr. Nikki R. Van Hightower
Women's Advocate
City of Houston
I. INTRODUCTION

A. ENJOY PARTICIPATING IN WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE.
B. TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PRIDE IN THE WOMEN WHO FOUGHT THE EARLY BATTLES FOR US TO BE FULL-FLEDGED CITIZENS.
C. I LIKE THINKING ABOUT THEM – WONDERING WHAT THEY WERE FEELING.
D. WHAT THEY THOUGHT BEING A WOMAN WAS ALL ABOUT.
E. BECAUSE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN HISTORY HAS BEEN SO POORLY DOCUMENTED, WE TEND TO FORGET THE TRADITION OF INDIVIDUAL COURAGE AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM THAT WE HAVE.

2. DID NOT “JUST HAPPEN” THAT WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHTS THEY HAVE TODAY
   1. PEOPLE SACRIFICED
   2. TOOK SOME BIG RISKS
   3. WITHSTOOD THE OSTRACISM AND ALIENATION THAT COMES WITH GOING AGAINST THE MAINSTREAM.
   4. DONE AT A TIME WHEN TOLERANCE WAS LOWER AND THE PENALTIES HIGHER THAN THEY ARE NOW.
4-3-78

Mrs. Lee Wilcoxon
8111 Northbridge Drive
Houston, Texas 77033

Dear Mrs. Wilcoxon:

Ed and I would like to personally thank you for submitting the name "Doubletalk" for our show. After receiving hundreds of dreary names, yours really caught our imagination. We both favored it above all the others.

We thank you for listening and for your contribution to our show.

In humankind,

Nikki R. Van Hightower
Nikki R. Van Hightower

Ed Brandon
Ed Brandon
KTRH
COMMENTARY
BY
DR. NIKKI R. VAN HIGHTOWER
"ALL MALE CLUBS"

I CONGRATULATE THE NEW YORK CITY JAYCEES FOR TAKING A STAND AGAINST THE "ALL MALE" POLICY OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT "A GLORIFIED STAG CLUB," THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER OF THE JAYCEES SAID IT WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE PARENT ORGANIZATION AFTER A FIVE-YEAR BATTLE OVER THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN.

THE COURTS HAVE RULED THAT "WOMEN HAVE NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO JOIN A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION," WHICH MEANS THAT ACTION AGAINST THESE ORGANIZATIONS, IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE DONE INFORMALLY. THE PURPOSE OF THE STRUGGLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS BY WOMEN IS NOT, TAKE AWAY MEN'S RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE TO BE TOGETHER. IN FACT, THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE TRAINING GROUNDS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS. THEY ARE FORUMS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF BUSINESS, JOBS, IDEAS, THEY ARE FORUMS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF MONEY AND POWER. MONEY IN THE FORM OF BUSINESS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES, POWER IN THE SENSE THAT THEY PROVIDE TRAINING GROUNDS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS AND A VITAL IMPORTANCE SOCIAL NETWORK THAT CAN BE UTILIZED AS A BASE FOR WEILDING INFLUENCE.
GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO THE KTRH WOMEN'S ADVOCATE'S HOUR. I AM NIKKI VAN HIGHTOWER YOUR HOST.

MY GUEST TODAY IS MS. POKEY ANDERSON, CO-CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE AND A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS.

OUR SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION TODAY WILL BE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GAY RIGHTS AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION, JUST GIVE US A CALL AT 526-4984 OR (713) 526-0193.

THE NUMBER TO CALL IS 526-4984
THIS IS KTRH IN HOUSTON
1. POKEEY, YOU OPENLY IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A LESBIA
AND YOU ARE TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN A MOVEMENT THAT
IS PROBABLY AS FEARED, CHASTISED, MISUNDERSTOOD,
ATTACKED AND MALIGNS AS ANY SOCIAL MOVEMENT THAT
THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN. HOW DO YOU HOLD UP? DO
YOU EVER GET THE DESIRE TO GO BACK IN THE CLOSET?

2. I HAVE HEARD IT SAID, OVER AND OVER AGAIN ON THIS
RADIO SHOW IN FACT THAT LESBIANISM IS NOT A WOMAN'S
ISSUE, THAT IT IS AN ALBATROSS AROUND THE NECK OF THE
WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, THAT IT IS UNNATURAL, IMMORAL, SINFUL,
AND CORRUPTING. LET'S LOOK AT THESE CHARGES ONE
AT A TIME.

3. IS IT A WOMAN'S ISSUE, SIMPLY ? IS THERE A
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LESBIAN RIGHTS AND GAY RIGHTS?

4. HAS IT BEEN AN ALBATROSS AROUND THE NECK OF THE
WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, AND WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD POLITICS
TO DROP THIS ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING AND CONCENTRATE
ON FULL LEGAL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN?
Houston Area Now

• Local chapter organized in March 1970
• Primary goal is equality for women
• Concerned with status/issues of Women
• Activities: Awareness, media, financial services, litigation, and politics
• Many member involved not only with Houston Now but other sub-affiliates.
Accomplishments

• Sex Discrimination in EEOC
• Depiction of women in ads
• Women included in Houston Plan
• Abortion
• Equal legal rights
• Human relations ordinance
The Houston Area Chapter of NOW was organized in March, 1970, by 10 women and men concerned about the status of women. Now there are over 120 local members and our numbers are growing. Our accomplishments include the following:

Sex Discrimination Included in EEOC Hearings
In the summer of 1970 when the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission set in Houston, the local chapter got sex discrimination included in their hearings. Previously the EEOC had not considered sex discrimination. As a result of NOW's testimony, the policy of the EEOC has changed and public awareness of discrimination against women has been greatly increased.

Want Ads Deregulated
After meetings with the Houston Post, the Post dropped its separate male and female help wanted columns. The Houston Chronicle continues to separate its want ads by sex despite our protestations as well as those of the EEOC.

Women Included in Houston Plan
Houston Area NOW participated in the Houston Minorities Coalition which prepared the Houston Plan for increasing minority employment in the construction trades. Goals and timetables for women workers are included in the plan. No other city plan has included women.

Abortion Coalition Formed
Houston Area NOW sponsored the organizing meeting of the Texas Abortion Coalition, a statewide coalition of groups and individuals who want repeal of abortion laws. As feminists, we believe that a woman has the right to control her own body and the right to choose parenthood.

Equal Rights Amendment Passed
Our lobbying efforts paid off in early 1971 when the Texas Legislature passed the Equal Rights Amendment to the Texas Constitution. This amendment will be voted on by the people in November, 1972. If passed, it will guarantee that equal rights under the law cannot be denied or abridged on the basis of sex.

Human Relations Ordinance Proposed for Houston
In August, 1971, the Houston Area Chapter introduced to city council a Human Relations Ordinance for the City of Houston. This ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, or place of birth. Many civic leaders have endorsed this proposal, but we need your help to get it passed. Human rights for all must become a reality.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
OCTOBER 25, 1974

N.O.W. TO FILE DISCRIMINATION CHARGES AGAINST FIRST CITY NATIONAL BANK

An employment discrimination complaint will be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2320 LaBranch, Houston, against First City National Bancorporation of Texas, Inc., by the Houston Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), at 10:00 A.M., October 29, 1974.

This class action on behalf of all female employees will be brought at the specific request of two employees of the bank. N.O.W. is filing the complaint in order to protect the anonymity of the two employees.

"Banks are among the worst offenders in the area of employment discrimination and in failing to give women credit for the work they do," said Jan Dilbeck, President of Houston/N.O.W. "I find it distressing that such banks are not complying with the law."

First City National Bank is the largest bank in Houston. N.O.W. is the largest and oldest feminist organization in the world.
CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER,
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

I, Beverly Horton, Secretary of Houston Area Chapter, National Organization for Women, certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by a majority of the members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Houston Area Chapter, National Organization for Women, held on March 12, 1975:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houston Area Chapter, National Organization for Women, join the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, when it receives its charter.

I further certify that said resolution is still in effect and has not been rescinded or modified in any way.

DATED March ____, 1975.

Beverly Horton, Secretary
Houston Area Chapter
National Organization for Women
The Broadside

Abortion in Texas

The Editors
Ephemera/Artifacts

Houston, Texas
Feminist Capitol of the World
NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 18-21, 1977

- Keep YOUR Laws Off MY BODY
- Women One Man Away From Welfare
- CONSCIOUSNESS RAISED CAN NEVER GO BACK
- TEACHING IS NOT A SECONDARY SEX CHARACTERISTIC
- AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY WHO GIVES A SHIT?
WOMEN : ART : HOUSTON

Juror's statement:
In selecting this show we were guided by the artists dedication to freedom, risk and the inventive juxtaposition of medium and theme. The resulting mixture in these works reveals the immense variety and sophistication of this place, these people.
Houston Gorilla Girls
Who were those masked women?

- Formed in May 1987
- Originally 4 Houston Women
- From “Guerilla Girls” NYC
- Gender Inequality
What’s up with the suits?
The Hits keep coming
What was a “hit” like

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE

MODDY GALLERY
34 ARTISTS... 5 WOMEN
DAVIS/McCLAIN GALLERY
13 ARTISTS... 0 WOMEN
PERCEPTION GALLERY
9 ARTISTS... 2 WOMEN
WATSON GALLERY
12 ARTISTS... 3 WOMEN

ART IN AMERICA 87-88 ANNUAL GUIDE TO GALLERIES
Pgs. 158-159

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE

MEN
99.9%

Remember the Feminist Proverb

“Only she who attempts the absurd can achieve the impossible”?
Today and what’s next???