

WOMEN TOGETHER RECORDS

MSS COLL. #180

1.5 ft.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Women Together: The Journal of North Country Women was a bi-monthly, then quarterly, then bi-annual, newsletter for women in northern New York produced by a group of women who referred to themselves as North Country Women or The North Country Women's Collective. North Country Women began meeting as a group in 1974 to discuss feminism and raise consciousness. The *Women Together* newsletter was born from these meetings and discussions as a tool to circulate ideas and increase consciousness.

In its statement of purpose, *Women Together* is described as "a publication of the women of the north country, which prints articles, literature, and artwork by and for our sisters. We are here to share information about North Country Women, our community, women's issues, here and throughout our country, state, nation, and world."

In addition to the newsletter, North Country Women was also involved with the founding of the North Country Women's Center in 1977, which transitioned into a Women's Shelter in 1979. The Women's Center and Shelter project are frequently featured in *Women Together*.

The newsletter experienced financial challenges throughout most of its existence, which was one of the primary causes for the publication to shift from bi-monthly to quarterly, and then bi-annually before ceasing production in 1981. Readership came from mainly Northern New York women, however, letters within the collection indicate readers from Pennsylvania and even as far away as California.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains records of *Women Together: The Journal of North Country Women*. The collection includes copies of 13 completed newsletter issues dating from 1976 to 1981, however, there exist gaps among the newsletter volume and issue numbers, suggesting that there may be additional completed issues of *Women Together* that remain unattained. The collection also consists of typed and hand-written original source material for articles, newspaper clippings, original photographs, and mockups of 6 drafted newsletters. There is also hand-written correspondence from newsletter staff members, contributors and readers. In addition, the collection includes 2 notebooks containing records of business operations from 1979 and 1980 such as meeting notes, meeting attendance, newsletter subscribers, newsletter distributors and newsletter sales. There is also a group photograph of the North Country Women members, as well as photographs from the opening of the North Country Women's Shelter.

PROVENANCE

The collection was donated to St. Lawrence University Special Collections in 2013 by Valerie Summer, a member of North Country Women and principle organizer and contributor of *Women Together*. Additional issues of *Women Together* were donated by Arlyne Ruthschild in November 2013. Processing of the collection and preparation of this finding aid was done by Emma Berry ('14) as part of a St. Lawrence University Summer Fellowship in 2013. Faculty mentor, Judith DeGroat. Newsletters and other materials donated by Nancy Boyea in November 2021.

KEYWORDS

Canton; feminism; newsletter; New York State; North Country; rural women; women's shelters.

Contents

Series 1—*Women Together* Newsletter Production

Sub-Series 1: Original Source Materials for Newsletter

Box/Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | <p>Original Source Material for “Our Changing Face” Issue, June-July 1978</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand-written and typed articles, news stories, and poetry—some with editorial and formatting markings- List of tasks to be completed for the issue- Correspondence from a reader in California- Blank mockup of the issue with page titles but no written content |
| | 2 | <p>Original Source Material for “Families” Issue, January-February 1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand-written and typed articles, news stories, and poetry—some with editorial and formatting markings- Original photographs- Newspaper graphics- Blank mockup of the issue with page titles but no written content- Correspondence in the form of a postcard and a letter from two different contributors |
| | 3 | <p>Original Source Material for “Shelters” Issue, November-December 1979</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand-written and typed articles, news stories, and poetry—some with editorial and formatting markings- Formatting guidelines- Subscription list, indicating newsletter subscription figures from Out of State, Canton/Potsdam, and N.Y.S.- Meeting notes from February 22, 1978- Correspondence from Valerie Ingram concerning the “Center for the Study of North Country Folklife” |
| | 4 | <p>Original Source Material for “Children” Issue, June 1980</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand-written and typed articles, news stories, and poetry—some with editorial and formatting markings- Correspondence from contributors |
| | 5 | <p>Original Source Material for “Kids” Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand-written and typed articles, news stories, and poetry—some with editorial and formatting markings- Correspondence from readers and contributors- Purchase order and letter from the Jefferson Community College Library requesting a subscription of <i>Women Together</i> |
| | 6 | <p>Original Source Material for “Men and Women and Growing Up Together” Issue, Fall 1981</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand-written and typed articles, news stories, and poetry—some with editorial and formatting markings |

Sub-Series 2: Mockup Drafts of Newsletters

Box/Folder

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| 2 | 7 | Mockup Draft of “Health” Issue, August-September 1977 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Note:</i> These records do not include the final, published draft of the “Health” issue |
| 8 | | Mockup Draft of “Age” Issue, December-January 1977-78 and Mockup Draft of “Men and Women and Growing Up Together” Issue, Fall 1981 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Also included in folder is an original photograph, original source material of news stories, and correspondence between newsletter staff members concerning production |
| 9 | | Mockup Draft of “Shelters” Issue, November-December 1979 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Also included in folder is a blank mockup of the issue with page titles but no written content with editorial and formatting markings |
| 10 | | Mockup Draft of “Children” Issue, June 1980 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Also included in folder is a June 18, 1980 bill for printing services from Walt’s Printing |
| 11 | | Mockup Draft of “Kids” Issue, Fall 1980 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Also included in folder are hand-written and typed original source materials |

Sub-Series 3: Completed/Published Newsletters

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|-----|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12 | v. 1 iss. 1; March-April 1976: | “How We Live” |
| 12a | v. 1 iss. 2; May- June 1979: | “Foremothers” |
| 13 | v. 1 iss. 3; Aug- Sept. 1976: | “Women & Work” |
| 14 | v. 1, iss. 4; Oct.-Nov. 1976: | “Women & Politics” |
| 15 | v. 1, iss. 5: Dec. ’76-Jan. ’77: | “Relationships” |
| 15a | v. 1 iss. 6; Feb- Mar 1977: | “Changes” |
| 16 | v. 2, iss. 1: April-May 1977: | “North Country Living” |
| 17 | v.2, iss. 2: June-July 1977: | “Community” |
| 17A | v. 2 iss. 4 Aug.- Sept. 1977: | “Health” |
| 18 | v. 2, iss. 5: Dec. ’77-Jan. ’78 | “Age” |

Box/Folder

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|---|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 3 | 19 | v. 3, iss. 1: June-July 1978: | “Our Changing Face” |
| | 20 | v. 4, iss. 1: Jan.-Feb. 1979: | “Families” |
| | 21 | v. 4, iss. 2: Nov.- Dec. 1979: | “Shelters” |
| | 22 | [v. 5, iss. 1]: June 1980: | “Children” |
| | 23 | [v. 6, iss. 2]: Fall 1980: | “Kids” |
| | 24 | [v. 7, iss. 1]: Fall 1981: | “Men and Women Growing Up Together” (CD of scanned issue) |

Series 2—Business Records/Organization

Box/Folder

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| 3 | 25 | Organizational Records: This folder contains 2 composition notebooks that comprise records of <i>Women Together</i> business operations such as names and numbers of staff members, meeting notes, meeting attendance, newsletter subscribers, newsletter distribution, newsletter sales, and receipts. More specific contents are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Green Notebook<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1980 Fall Distribution Records |
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- Meeting Notes

Box/Folder

- 3 25 (cont.)**
- *Women Together* Staff names and numbers
 - Receipt of Delivery
 - Advertisements

Black and White Composition Notebook

- December 1979 Subscription and Distribution Records
- Fundraising Notes January 1979
- *Women Together* staff names and numbers
- Meeting Notes February 7, 1980
- Meeting Notes February 21, 1980
- Meeting Notes March 20, 1980
- Meeting Notes March 27, 1980
- Meeting Notes April 17, 1980
- Meeting Notes April 24, 1980
- Meeting Notes July 20, 1980
- Meeting Notes July 23, 1980
- Meeting Notes August 6, 1980
- Meeting Notes October 21, 1980
- October 1980 Distribution Records
- Receipts of Delivery June 25, 1980; June 25, 1980; July 21, 1980; July 22, 1980

Series 3—Photographs

26 Photographs

- Group photograph of North Country Women—individuals identified by name on the back of the image
- Photographs from the opening of the North Country Women's Shelter
- Envelope of miscellaneous photographs—includes some images used as original source material for the "Men and Women and Growing Up Together" newsletter issue
- Non photograph material
 - Poster for grand opening of North Country Women's Shelter
 - Women's Shelter brochure

Series 4—Miscellaneous

27 Miscellaneous: This folder contains an assortment of papers, images, folders and materials that accompany the *Women Together* collection, but have no clear home among the other materials. The contents include:

- Interagency messenger service envelope with names and notes written on it
- Partial pages from completed newsletters
- 4 Potsdam Consumer Co-op Newsletter Issues from Jan. 1980, March 1980, August 1981, Fall 1981
- Envelope of excess photographs and artwork not used in newsletter
- Envelope of news clippings, poems, notes, original source material for articles, film negatives, correspondence from Marianne (Randjelovic)—woman involved in *Women Together* and also Director of the Women's Shelter—to newsletter staff about subscription of *Women Together* for the Shelter
- Envelope from Olga-Teresa Baigas with written contributions for newsletter. Additional comments written on back of envelope by Terry (de la Vega) about contents

- Envelope from Oxfam America with information on Cambodia events of 1979 and information on the Oxfam America Organization
- Envelope of drawings, artwork and newspaper graphics
- Assortment of loose papers including typed and hand-written material and news clippings—possibly original source material for newsletter
- 2 empty folders
- Inter-Dept Mail envelope with names written on it

28 Research Paper: Alexandra Whalen '20 *North Country Women: A Study of Rural Feminist Activism*
SYE Honors History Thesis, May 4, 2020