

2006

South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project

San Jose State University, Special Collections and Archives

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/speccoll_archives

 Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Collection Development and Management Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, MSS-2006-06-30, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the SJSU Special Collections and Archives at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Archival Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.

Guide to the South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project

SJSU Library Special Collections & Archives

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

San José State University

One Washington Square

San José, CA 95192-0028

Phone: (408) 808-2062

Fax: (408) 808-2063

Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu

URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

© 2009

Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

Guide to the South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project

Collection number: MSS-2006-06-30



SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY

SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 808-2062
Fax: (408) 808-2063
Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

Finding aid funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Processed by:
Elizabeth Lopez
Date Completed:
2010
Encoded by:
Elizabeth Lopez
Reviewed by:
Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen

© 2009 Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Guide to the South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project

Dates: 2006-2010

Bulk Dates: 2006

Collection number: MSS-2006-06-30

Creator: San Jose State University, Special Collections & Archives

Collection Size: 3 custom boxes 1.25 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, 2006-2010 (bulk 2006) consists of thirteen digital recordings and complete transcriptions documenting the experiences of women in politics in San José and Santa Clara County. The interviewees include: Blanca Alvarado, Joan Goddard, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Dianne McKenna, Madison Nguyen, Sally Reed, Lu Ryden, Leona Egeland Siadek, Lee Sturtevant, Susanne Wilson, and Zoe Lofgren. This collection is arranged into one series: Series I. South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, 2006-2010 (bulk 2006).

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research. Donor Agreements in box 3 are restricted.

Publication Rights

Copyright is assigned to the San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Special Collections & Archives as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader. Copyright restrictions also apply to digital reproductions of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation

South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, MSS-2006-06-30, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed and EAD encoded by Elizabeth Lopez. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Project History

The South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project was funded by a CSU Research Grant from 2005-2006. This oral history project resulted in thirteen digital recordings and complete transcriptions documenting the experiences of women in politics in San José and Santa Clara County. The interviewees include: Blanca Alvarado, Joan Goddard, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Dianne McKenna, Madison Nguyen, Sally Reed, Lu Ryden, Leona Egeland Siadek, Lee Sturtevant, Susanne Wilson, and Zoe Lofgren.

In this time period, San José and Santa Clara County become known as the "Feminist Capital" of the nation, starting with the mayoral success of Janet Gray Hayes, who became the first elected female mayor in the United States of a city of 500,000. Her political ascendancy represented a watershed for female office holders in the U.S., and this key victory opened a floodgate for female participation in almost every level of California government, from the Mayor's office to the California Assembly, and eventually Congress. As a result Santa Clara County and specifically the city of San Jose became known as the "Feminist Capital of the Nation." This combined with the success of other female candidates across the U.S. led a number of national magazines to run stories on the role of women, feminism, and politics. *Time*, *People*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and even some international papers carried stories highlighting the success of these female candidates. Gray Hayes was featured in a number of articles, alongside Diane Feinstein of San Francisco, Jane Byrne of Chicago, Isabella Cannon of Raleigh, North Carolina, Carole McCellan of Austin, Texas, and Margaret Hance of Phoenix, Arizona. In 1979 the *U.S. News and World Report* ran a story highlighting the recent victories of women in politics across the U.S. According to this report 750 cities had female mayors out of 18,800 municipalities—women were making clear inroads into politics at all levels. From 1975 to 1979 the number of women in public office increased from 4.7% to 10.9%, with the largest increase at the local and state levels.

These pioneering women worked directly and indirectly for equal rights and equal participation in the political process. Some of them played a key role as the first recognized political figures in San José and the larger Bay Area, while others worked as activists and lobbyist for the Equal Rights Amendment, the environment, civil rights, including outlawing marital and date rape, and reproductive rights. Each narrator was asked to reflect on her political and social experiences from the 1960s to the present, with the objective to document women's experience through the political process, as politicians, and as non-governmental lobbyists and activists. This project provides a deeper understanding of the important role that women have played in Bay Area politics, and will advance historical understanding of the important events, activities, and resulting policies that transformed the political landscape and opened up new opportunities for women, despite the failure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Bibliography

Flammang, Janet A. "Female Officials in the Feminist Capital: The Case of Santa Clara County," *Women's Political Quarterly* 38 no. 1 (March 1985).

Flammang, Janet A. *Women's Political Voice: How women are Transforming the Practice and Study of Politics* (Temple University Press, 1997).

Matthews, Glenna. *Silicon Valley, Women, and the California Dream: Gender, Class, Opportunity in the Twentieth Century* (Stanford University Press, 2003).

Philip J. Trounstine and Terry Christensen. *Movers and Shakers: The Study of Community Power* (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1982).

Related Material

Susan Hammer Papers. San José State University Archives Collection. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt6r29r199>

Janet Gray Hayes Papers. San José State University Archives Collection. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt4v19r0fx>

Dianne McKenna Papers. San José State University Archives Collection. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt767nc8vv>

Box 3

Interviews: Wilson, Donor Agreements, 2006