

Collection #
M 0785

**ELLYN STECKER
PAPERS, 1978–1999**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	8 document cases, 1 box of photographs, slides, artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1978-99
PROVENANCE:	Ellyn Stecker, 1036 Niles Avenue, South Bend, Ind., 21 May 2001
RESTRICTIONS:	Slides may be viewed by appointment only. Inquire at the Reference Desk.
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0721

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Elleyn Stecker, a practicing family physician in South Bend, Indiana, served as co-chairperson of the National Organization for Women (NOW), St. Joseph Valley (Indiana) Chapter, from circa 1985 to the late 1990s. She was also active in Planned Parenthood, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and state and county medical societies in Indiana. Stecker also was an editor of *Around the Bend*, the newsletter of the Peace Education Fund of Indiana, Inc.

The St. Joseph Valley Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded circa 1981 by students at Notre Dame University, South Bend. The chapter was chartered in August 1982. NOW's concerns include reproductive rights, lesbian rights, childcare issues, older women's concerns, racial diversity, women's history, and employment and wage legislation.

NOW is a national organization founded by Betty Freidan and a small group of women in 1966. The goal of the founders was to "take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising full participation and responsibilities in partnership with men."

Sources: Material in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes minutes, correspondence, memos, agenda, notes, press releases clippings, photographs, and artifacts concerning the activities of Indiana feminists from the late 1970s to the late 1990s. Ellyn Stecker, a physician from South Bend, Indiana, accumulated the material in her capacity as co-chairperson of the St. Joseph Valley (Indiana) Chapter, National Organization for Women (NOW).

The collection is divided into four series. Series 1, St. Joseph Valley NOW, includes subject files concerning the struggle between anti-abortion groups and organizations that advocate access to abortion and family planning services. Groups represented in the material include CALL (Collegians Activated to Liberate Life), Operation Rescue, and Planned Parenthood. A large number of documents concern protest and defense activities at the Women's Pavilion, an abortion clinic/women's health center in South Bend. Also included are business records of the group, including minutes and financial records, and chapter reports to the National Organization for Women head office in Washington, D.C.

Series 2, Ellyn Stecker Papers, contains Stecker's personal notebooks related to her activities with St. Joseph Valley NOW. The notebooks functioned as a day planner and repository for printed material related to women's issues. Entries in the notebooks primarily concern the planning and coordination of NOW activities in the South Bend area from 1985 to 1990.

Series 2 also includes subject files created by Stecker for information and outreach activities related to her work for St. Joseph Valley NOW. The files include notes, correspondence, and song sheets concerning support and protest actions at the Women's Pavilion in South Bend.

Other material in the series includes printed items and correspondence related to women's issues in the 1980s and 1990s. The topics include aging, the Gulf War, minimum wage legislation, affirmative action, non-violence, and lesbian issues. Included are minutes of the Michiana Older Women's League (1989-90), and the Working Women's Coalition (1990).

Series 3 contains subject files and printed material related to the activities of state-wide body, Indiana NOW, including the participation of the group in national activities such as the April 1992 *March for Women's Lives* in Washington, D.C.

Series 4 consists of business files and newsletters of *Around the Bend*, the newsletter of the Peace Education Fund of Indiana, Inc. The newsletters date from November 1988 to June 1999.

Photographs in the collection document support activities at the Women's Pavilion (South Bend) and women's rights marches in various locations. Artifacts consist mainly of bumper stickers on topics related to women's rights and peace issues. Also included is a purple arm band worn in marches or during support actions.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its call number using the letter or letters designation and four digits (in this case, M 0785).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.