

DOC 70 - Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP) Finding Aid

Parent Collection: Prison - Women

Description:

This collection contains program records, conference materials, correspondence, ephemera, and photographs from the Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP) and Music Inside/Out (MI/O), a SCWPP affiliated organization committed to bringing musical instruments and performances to people inside. Additional materials are related to guerilla theater, alternative education, and poetry, as well as other forms of creative resistance.

Materials in this collection were donated by Debra Miller (also Debra Elise Miller) and are from Debra's time at the University of California, Santa Cruz between 1971-1975.

Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP):

The Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP) was an educational project committed to the rehabilitation of communities and the abolition of prisons. Frequently working with prisoners at the California Institution for Women (CIW), the main focus of the project was to conduct workshops within the prison on issues immediately relevant to raising the social and political consciousness of organizers and women prisoners. The project provided UC Extension credit for classes such as creative writing, women's health, and social action.

The SCWPP was formed in 1972, when Karlene Faith gained prison access to conduct graduate research for her dissertation on women in prison. She co-taught a course in August 1972 to CIW prisoners with Jeanne Gallick, a fellow graduate student. The imprisoned women received the first college credit to be granted to prisoners in the history of the institution.

People: Debra Miller, Karlene Faith

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Size: 1 Carton, 12 Folders

Date Range: 1971-1977 (bulk 1971-1975)

Formats: correspondence, periodicals, ephemera, VHS, proposals, articles

Notes:

- Additional materials related to Debra Elise Miller can be found at the June L. Mazor Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles, CA

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[Box 1]

Folder 1: Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP) General, 1973-1975

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: women in prison, California Institution for Women (CIW), prisoner support

Description: This folder contains an SCWPP banner, reports, workshop pamphlets, flyers, member contacts, and statements, among other materials.

Folder 2: Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP) Correspondence, 1974-1986

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: correspondence with prisoners, women in prison, California Institution for Women (CIW), prisoner support, formerly incarcerated people, prison conditions, Leslie Van Houten, trauma

Description: This folder primarily contains correspondence with prisoners, in addition to some internal correspondence among SCWPP membership and with other organizations.

Folder 3: LOADED & Assorted **Publications, 1971-1977**

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: Anti-war, Internationalism, Anti-Imperialism, International Women's Day, student activism, poetry, feminism, **music, soledad prison, alternative education, Karlene Faith**

Description: *LOADED* is a political consciousness raising collective work project. The periodical provides information and analysis on events throughout the world, and includes personal accounts, commentary, film reviews, poetry, graphics, and more. The folder contains 10 issues of *LOADED* and two assorted periodicals.

- *LOADED*, No. 8 (May 14, 1971)
- *LOADED*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (November 8-Nov 29, 1971)
- *LOADED*, International Women's Day (March 8, 1972)
- *LOADED*, Special Issue, Vol. 2, No. 9. (April 24, 1972)
- *LOADED*, Vol. 2, No. 10 (June 1, 1972)
- *LOADED*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (December 1972)
- *LOADED*, May Day Issue, Vol. 3, No. 5 (May 1973)
- *LOADED*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (March 1973)
- *LOADED*, Vol. 3, No. 6 (June 1973)
- *LOADED*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (December 1973)
- *Give a sister a lift*, The Planted Breast Collective (n.d.)
- *Through the Looking Glass: A Women and Children's Prison Newsletter*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (March, 1977)

- *Women's Music: Women in American Music* (Kresge College and the University of California, Santa Cruz), Spring 1975.
- *Soledad Prison: University of the Poor* by prisoners from Soledad and students from UC Santa Cruz, ed. Karlene Faith (Science and Behavior Books: Palo Alto, CA), 1975.

Folder 4: Action Conference of Women Against Repression and Prison, Women's Prison Coalition, 1977

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: racism, behavior modification, health care, political prisoners, forced sterilization, families of prisoners, child custody, mothers in prison, Sally Johnson, Debra Miller (Debra Elise Miller)

Description: The Women's Prison Coalition Conference brought together 120 women and former prisoners from numerous organizations across the western U.S. region to discuss the state of the women's prison movement, establish a strategy for action, and create a communication network among women working in the women's prison movement. The conference, organized by the SCWPP and held at Ben Lomond in Santa Cruz County, California, resulted in the formation of The Women's Prison Coalition--Western Region. Conference workshops covered issues related to mothers in prison, racism and lesbians, organizing tactics, health care, behavior modification, and more. Materials in this folder include the conference schedule, flyers, invitation letters, assorted correspondence, evaluation notes, and more.

Folder 5: Prison Poems, 1973-1974

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: poetry, women in prison, art, prison conditions

Description: This folder contains assorted poems from prisoners at the California Institution for Women and a chapbook of poetry from a writing class taught by Debra Miller, "No Title at all is Better than a title like that!" Santa Cruz Prison Project (1974).

Folder 6: Music Inside/Out (MI/O), 1976

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: music, prisoner support, women in prison, art

Description: Music Inside/Out was committed to bringing music to women imprisoned in the California Institution for Women (CIW). The group organized a concert series and coordinated music education offerings to incarcerated women. Members included Joan Antonuccio, Karlene Faith, Debra Miller, Rose Mohrstein, Vicki Randle, and Mary Reyna.

The folder contains MI/O statements, welcome letters, evaluations, notes, and more.

Folder 7: Debra Miller, 1974-1980

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: correspondence with prisoners, Leslie Van Houten, religion

Description: Debra Miller (also known as Debra Elise Miller) was involved in feminist queer liberation, anti-war politics, and prison organizing at the University of California Santa Cruz (1971-75) and the Peoples College of Law (1976-). She was a founding member of the Santa Cruz Women's Prison Project (SCWPP) and Music Inside/Out, and later joined the WOW Cafe/Theater in NYC. The bulk of materials in

this folder include personal correspondence and correspondence with prisoners. Additional materials include Debra's personal journal and arts ephemera from events Debra was involved in.

[Box 2]

Folder 8: Debra Miller Photographs, 1970-1977

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: anti-imperialism, prison support, women in prison, Angela Davis, nuclear weapons, CIW, Rainbow Coalition, Puerto Rico, People's College of Law, Sumner Prison, **lesbians, music, street theater, anti-war, El Salvador**

Description: This folder contains over one hundred photographs taken by Debra Miller, featuring demonstrations and mobilizations in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. The photographs also document conferences and prisoner support work.

- Angela Davis at UC Santa Cruz Amphitheater and rally, c. 1970-1972
- Assorted photographs from two unknown women in prison conferences, c. 1970s
- Sumner Prison, 1972
- Bozo Collective Theater, UCSC, 1973
- Mime Troup, June 7, 1972
- Chestnut St. Anti-Imperialist Marching, Kazoo Band. Inauguration Parade of Nixon, 1973
- California Institution for Women (CIW) in Frontera, California, 1973-74
- Holly Near Benefit for SCWPP at Veterans Hall, Santa Cruz, August 1974
- Fourth of July Rainbow Coalition Picnic, 1975
- Los Angeles Demo's Peoples College of Law, 1976
- Fourth of July Demonstration, East LA, 1976
- Sweet Honey in the Rock, Los Angeles Tour with CIW, May 1977
- **Santa Cruz Equality Parade, August 1975**
- **1st Women's Dance, UCSC, June 1972**
- **San Francisco LGBT parade 1973**
- **Women's Pentagon Peace March (surrounding Pentagon), Washington D.C., 1981**
- **Demonstration for Peace Disarmament, NYC, June 12, 1981**
- **NYC Bush demo**
- **Gay March, Washington D.C., 1979**
- **Hands off El Salvador March, New York, 1980**

Folder 9: Bozo Theater Collective, UC Santa Cruz Guerilla Theater, 1972-1973

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: art, theater, guerrilla theater, radical theater

Description: This folder contains assorted materials including scripts and photographs related to the Bozo Theater Collective, a Guerilla theater group at UC Santa Cruz.

Folder 10: Karlene Faith, 1972-1998

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: Prisoner support, correspondence with prisoners, women in prison

Description: Karlene Faith was a founding member of SCWPP and MI/O. She wrote her dissertation at UCSC on women in prison and taught classes on the subject to university students. This folder primarily contains correspondence in addition to assorted manuscripts.

Folder 11: Alternative and Community Education, 1968-1982

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: Free University, alternative education, Midpeninsula Free University, radicalism, sexuality, spirituality, Marxism, tenant rights

Description: This folder contains catalogs of alternative and community education courses based in Santa Cruz and the San Francisco Bay Area. It also includes a guide to community research and action, with guidance on tenants rights and food security.

Folder 12: Media

Subjects: Prison, Women, Resistance, Human Rights, Education, LGBTQI

Keywords: women in prison, prison support, California Institution for Women (CIW)

Description: This folder contains a video of a forum at the California Institution for Women. The video was edited by Debra Miller.

- VHS, "We're Not Lost They're Just Hiding Us" CIW LTO Forum 1974