

Medical Heritage Center
Prior Health Sciences Library
The Ohio State University
376 W. 10th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210

Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network Collection
Spec.201116.Cassandra
1 linear foot, 1913, 1982 – 2007

INTRODUCTION

Access

The collection is open to the public and is available for viewing in the Medical Heritage Center. Materials do not circulate and must be used in the supervised reading room.

Restrictions, including copyright, may exist and some materials may be too fragile to photocopy or digitize. The MHC charges for duplication services, which must be performed by staff.

Citation

[Identification of item], Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network Collection, Spec.201116.Cassandra, Medical Heritage Center, John A. Prior Health Sciences Library, The Ohio State University.

Processing Notes

This collection was processed July 8-11, 2011 by Kristin Rodgers.

Property Rights

The Ohio State University Medical Heritage Center owns the property rights to this collection.

Provenance

This collection was donated to the Medical Heritage Center by Sharon Deevey and Judith Carr on November 8, 2002. Additions to the original donation were added by Sharon Deevey on October 30, 2007.

Related Collections

Related collections within the Medical Heritage Center include The Textile Collection and the Rare Book Collection. The Textile Collection contains a nursing cape and a student nursing uniform that came with this donation. The Rare Book Collection contains three books that also came with this donation. The books are:

- 1.) A Collection of Classics in Psychiatric Nursing Literature. Edited by Shirley A. Smoyak and Shelia Rouslin. Thorofare, NJ: Charles B. Slack, Inc., 1982.
- 2.) Donahue, M. Patricia. Nursing The Finest Art An Illustrated History. St. Louis: C.V. Mosby Company, 1985.
- 3.) Sandelowski, Margarete. Women, Health and Choice. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1981.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network nurtured support, encouragement and connection for women who were creating a woman-centered reality in nursing.

The name Cassandra was a tribute to Florence Nightingale who wrote an essay titled Cassandra in 1852. Cassandra provided a place where the passion, intellect and moral activity of women who were nurses could be voiced and heard.

The word “radical” was defined as going to the root or origin. The word “feminist” reflected a woman-centered world view. These terms were used to convey the commitment to theory and action grounded in the reality of women’s experience in nursing and in health care. A “network” was a unified structure formed of the visible and invisible.

The vision of Cassandra emerged during the June 1982 American Nurses Association convention in Washington, D.C. on the eve of the death of the Equal Rights Amendment. Their first Newsjournal was published in October of 1982. Their first continental gathering was held in San Francisco in 1983. From the beginning Cassandra was conceptualized as an alternative to traditional hierarchical structures which required that they create non-hierarchical ways of networking.

Recognizing the power of words in thought and action, Cassandra selected words that reflected their women-centered experience and view. For example, they used the term “websters” as an alternate to “member” or “regular member.” While “member” generally communicates what they mean, it is a term that implies that they are an ordinary “organization” in a patriarchal sense. The word “Webster” is used in Cassandra in connection with their concept of “Web” (local gatherings of Cassandrans). Websters are equally responsible, creative, active women in nursing who participated in Cassandra’s decision-making process.

Cassandra was active in Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio in the 1980s.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Network Collection (1 linear foot) contains material about the organization.

CONTAINER LISTING

| Box | File | Description | Date(s) |
|------------|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Address Lists | 1984 – 1988 |
| 1 | 2 | American Nurses Association Guidelines for Formation, Maintenance and Dissolution of Councils | 1983 |
| 1 | 3 | Article by Denise Donnell Connors – “Florence Nightingale (1820 – 1910) A Radical Genius Remembered” | n.d. |
| 1 | 4 | Articles by Sharon Deevey | 1988 – 1990, 1992 – 1993, 1995, 2000 |
| 1 | 5 | Bylaws of Cassandra | n.d. |
| 1 | 6 | Cassandra Brochure | n.d. |

| Box | File | Description | Date(s) |
|------------|-------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | 7 | Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Newsjournal, Volume 1 | 1982 – 1983 |
| 1 | 8 | Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Newsjournal, Volume 2 | 1984 |
| 1 | 9 | Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Newsjournal, Volume 3 | 1985 |
| 1 | 10 | Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Newsjournal, Volume 4 | 1986 |
| 1 | 11 | Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Newsjournal, Volume 5 | 1987 |
| 1 | 12 | Cassandra Radical Feminist Nurses Newsjournal, Volume 6 | 1988 |
| 1 | 13 | Correspondence | 1983 – 1988 |
| 1 | 14 | Dissertation of Carla Elizabeth Randall – “Nurse Educators’ Experiences of Including Lesbian Content in Teaching: Impact on Pedagogy” | 2005 |
| 1 | 15 | Entering new members | 1987 |
| | | | |
| 2 | 1 | Feminism and Nursing | 1984 |
| 2 | 2 | Fliers and Notes | 1983 – 1988 |
| 2 | 3 | Gay Nurses’ Alliance | 1974 – 1986 |
| 2 | 4 | GMLA Report | 2004 – 2007 |
| 2 | 5 | Lesbian Health: An Exploratory Study | n.d. |
| 2 | 6 | Meeting Minutes | 1985 – 1988 |
| 2 | 7 | Nurses Alliance for the Prevention of Nuclear War | 1984 – 1985 |
| 2 | 8 | Nurses in Translation | 1982 |
| 2 | 9 | Photographs | 1913, 1983, 1987 |
| 2 | 10 | Pins (12) | n.d. |
| 2 | 11 | Statement of Receipts | 1984 – 1985 |