Womyn’s Words Collection of Pat Ditto

A Collection Guide by

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Introduction to the Collection

_Womyn’s Words_ was a monthly periodical published by the Women’s Energy Bank, Inc. that began in 1983. Pat Ditto and other editors and contributors to this publication devoted their efforts to the St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay area in support of the local LGBTQ+ community. Although they primarily advocated for the empowerment and civil rights of women, they also spent a significant amount of time supporting political causes that would benefit the gay community as a whole. Significantly, _Womyn’s Words_, as early as 1996, was promoting intersectional awareness with their “Afro-Centric Series.” A large portion of their publications was used to promote social activities such as concerts and dances, fundraisers for individuals in need, and praise for achievements within the community. As such it was a vital vehicle for organizing and building support in order to influence change for a group of people frequently marginalized by the larger society. This collection was maintained by Pat Ditto and received from Phyllis Plotnik in June 2016.

Preservation and Restriction Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of printed materials, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all fragile materials. Library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and Fair Use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the _Womyn’s Words_ Collection

This collection falls under the areas of LGBTQ+ and Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and University Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy 0.85 linear feet. The bulk of the publications cover the period from 2001 through 2011.

Related Collections

The Special Collections Department of the University of South Florida’s Tampa Library maintains a substantial archive of _Womyn’s Words_ that includes issues not found in this collection. To get additional information about or to secure access to the collection at USF Tampa, please contact the Special Collections Department of the USF Tampa Library at (813) 974-2731.
CONTAINER LIST

*N.B. No Volume or issue number for issues prior to 1994

BOX 1

Dec. 1984 – Christmas/Solstice/etc. edition
Jan. 1986 – Flyer inside; Alix Dobkin
July 1986 – Statue of Liberty feminist celebration
Nov. 1986 – Take back the night
Jan 1987 – Consensus
Jan. 1988 – Lynn Lavner and Terry Baum performances
April 1988 – Pinellas NOW “Focus on Women” workshops
Dec. 1988 – Women’s Energy Bank Inc. hosts singer Kathleen Hannan
Jan. 1989 – Kay Gardner in concert
Feb 1989 – JoAnn Loulan lecture and Jay Goldspinner storyteller
Sept. 1989 – Salon to discuss what WOMYN’S WORDS means to the community
May 1990 – Sonia Johnson to speak
Sept. 1990 – Hot rock, folk blues band Yer Girlfriend performs
March 1991 – Women’s awareness week
Oct. 1991 – Salon’s 9th birthday Party WEB honors 16 Womyn
March 1992 – Estro Fest
June 1994 – Summer PrideFest ’94
Oct. 1994 – Terry Galloway celebration
June 1995 – Pride ‘95
Sept. 1996 – Vol. 14 No. 9 – Afro-Centric Series
Feb. 1997 – Vol. 15 No. 2 – Sweet Honey in the Rock concert
April 1997 – Vol. 15 No. 4 – WEB Inc. Auction fundraiser
July 1997 – Vol. 15 No. 7 – The Fallopian Tubes concert
Dec. 1997 – Vol. 15 No. 12 – Salon to benefit shelter for women and children
June 1999 – Vol. 17 No. 6 – 1st Annual Gulfport Womyn’s Pride Festival
March 2001 – Vol. 19 No. 3 – Writing the five elements workshop
Aug 2001 – Vol. 19 No. 8 – Gratitude to Lois Marrero

Sept. 2001 – Vol. 19 No. 8 (sic) – Women’s community picnic

Oct. 2001 – Vol. 19 No. 8 (sic) – The Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival


April 2002 – Vol. 20 No. 4 – Annual WEB auction

July 2002 – Vol. 20 No. 7 – PrideFest Tampa Bay 2002 schedule

Aug. 2002 – Vol. 20 No. 8 – August Theatrical Entertainment


Feb. 2003 – Vol. 21 No. 2 – Film by Diane Mason

March 2003 – Vol. 21 No. 3 – 5th Annual Gulfport Womyn’s Festival

May 2003 – Vol. 21 No. 5 – Performance group The Phoenix debuts

Dec. 2003 – Vol. 21 No. 12 – Peace and Love Tour with Holly Near and Cris Williamson

May 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 5 – “Bring Out the Artist in you” 6th Annual Gulfport Womyn’s Festival

June 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 6 – Montreal for VIIe Festival International GALA Choruses

July 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 7 – “Journey…Vive la musique, Vive l’égalite” concert in St. Pete

Aug 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 8 – Workplace Discrimination in Florida

Sept. 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 9 – Open question concerning the continued existence of salon

Oct. 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 10 – Fifteen year celebration of the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Nov. 2004 – Vol. 22 No. 11 – Call to encourage the community to vote in the election

Dec. 2004 – Vol 22 No. 12 – Salute to women veterans


Feb. 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 2 – Lady in Red Sweetheart Dance (2 copies)

April 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 4 – Salon presents Chairperson of the Pinellas County Democratic Party Carolyn Wadlinger

June 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 6 – Gay bookstore Tomes And Treasures closes

July 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 7 – Summer Fun Dance

Oct. 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 10 – New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival winner “Left Lane” screening at Tampa Theatre

Nov. 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 11 – Veterans Appreciation Dance
Dec. 2005 – Vol. 23 No. 12 – Pat Humphries and Sandy O. perform at the Greenhouse Coffee House at Sacred Lands


March 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 3 – Sonia Plotnick Health Fund 10th Anniversary Picnic

April 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 4 – Screening of Joseph Alan Johnson’s film “Women Behind Bars”

May 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 5 – Two Women’s Dances

June 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 6 – Brandon Pridefest 2006

July 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 7 – Amy Boyd and The Fallopian Tubes to perform at WEB fundraiser

August 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 8 – Owner of ALL AMERICAN DYKE wins silver medal at Chicago Gay Games VII

Sept. 2006 – Vol. 24 No. 9 – Women’s Community Picnic


Jan. 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 1 – Commemoration of Christine (Tina) O’Brien

March 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 3 – The Gulfport Womyn’s Festival

April 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 4 – City council votes 5-0 to approve Human Rights Ordinance.

May 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 5 – Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio to speak at May Tampa Bay Business Guild

June 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 6 – Susan Stanton to Speak at June Tampa Bay Business Guild

July 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 6 (sic) – Reflections…Life, Love & Really Bad Hair Days
Aug. 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 6 (sic) – St. Pete Pride review
Sept. 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 9 – Women’s Community Picnic and Women’s Dance
Nov. 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 11 – Comedienne Suzanne Wastenhoefer performs at the Palladium Theatre
Dec. 2007 – Vol. 25 No. 12 – Boutique “Extraordinary Beingness” celebrates 1st anniversary
Jan. 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 1 – Tampa Ga-Ybor Program at Tampa Bay Business Guild Dinner Meeting
Feb. 2008 – Nov. 26 No. 2 – Third Annual Winter Pride in Tampa
March 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 3 – Gulfport Womyn’s Festival
April 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 4 – Carnivale Diversite
May 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 5 – Twenty-Fifth Anniversary edition of WOMYN’S WORDS
June 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 6 – The Fallopian Tubes concert and Women’s Dance
July 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 7 – Pro Star Sound Stage presents two nights of entertainment
Aug. 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 8 – WOMYN’S WORDS close to closure
Sept. 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 9 – Women’s Community Picnic (2 copies)
Nov. 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 11 – SUEDE in concert
Dec. 2008 – Vol. 26 No. 12 – Pro Star presents ADRRIANNE Sleepin’ Dogz
Jan. 2009 – Vol 27 No. 1 – ProSuzy’s Big Six-Oh Birthday
Feb. 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 2 – Valentine’s Events
March 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 3 – OUT will increase clout in Tallahassee and around state
April 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 4 – An evening with Vickie Shaw
May 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 5 – Sonia Plotnick Health Fund
June 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 6 – Dare to Dream Fundraiser
July 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 7 – Quisine and Queeraoke
Aug. 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 8 – Monthly dinner meeting with the Tampa Bay Business Guild
Sept. 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 9 – Women’s community picnic
Nov. 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 11 – Chris Williamson in concert with Crescendo: The Tampa Bay Women’s Chorus
Dec. 2009 – Vol. 27 No. 12 – Sonia Plotnick Health Fund Honored
Jan. 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 1 – Business owner Susan Griffin relocating pet grooming business

Feb. 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 2 – Flapjacks and Flea Market

March 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 3 – Ann Southcombe presents her kinship with animals slide show

April 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 4 – An evening with Vickie Shaw

May 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 5 – First Annual North Pinellas Pride

June 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 5 (sic) – Our Weekend of Pride

July 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 7 – Exuberant Inaugural North Pinellas Pride in Dunedin

Aug. 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 8 – Crescendo is accepting new members

Sept. 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 9 – Women’s Community Picnic


Nov. 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 11 – Mayor Pam Iorio to be honored as Citizen of the Year

Dec. 2010 – Vol. 28 No. 12 – Crescendo, the Tampa Bay Women’s Chorus presents Everything Possible

Jan. 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 1 – In appreciation of the Clio Foundation

Feb. 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 2 – Women’s Community Picnic

March 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 3 – Flapjacks & Flea Market

April 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 4 – Out & Equal Tampa Bay Celebrates Women’s Herstory

May 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 5 – Twenty-Eighth Anniversary of Womyn’s Words

June 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 6 – July Womyn’s Words will be Final Issue

July 2011 – Vol. 29 No. 7 – Final Issue – 28 years of our community history