



ArchivesSpace

Nancy Dibner papers, 1970-1973

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Maine Women Writers Collection

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URL: <http://www.une.edu/mwwc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Maine Women Writers Collection
Creator:	Dibner, Nancy
Title:	Nancy Dibner papers
ID:	0110
Date [inclusive]:	1966-2007
Date [bulk]:	1970-1973
Physical Description:	3 linear feet

Preferred Citation

Nancy Dibner papers, Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England, Portland, Maine

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Biographical/Historical Note

Nancy Cushman Dibner is best known for her work in the formation of the NOW Maine Chapter in the early 1970s. She was born in Buffalo, New York on March 23, 1926 and educated at the Scarborough School in Westchester County, New York. She married Martin Dibner in 1945, with whom she had two sons. Nancy Dibner died in Falmouth, Maine on January 25, 2007.

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Collection Scope and Content

The Nancy Dibner papers are divided into five series. Series 1 holds her papers concerning the National Organization for Women (NOW). Series 2 holds her papers concerning the formation of the Maine Chapter of NOW. Series 3 contains all the white papers and pamphlets on subjects of interest to NOW in

the 1970s, which varied from abortion to zero population growth. Series 4 contains two small personal files, and series 5 is a collection of feminist buttons and political stickers of the early 1970s.

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Arrangement

This collection has been organized into five series. Within the five series, all the files are in alphabetical order. Most of the files have the original file names from Dibner and there is a great deal of overlap between and within the series: for example, the Equal Rights Amendment is in each of the first three series and in multiple files within each series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Maine Women Writers Collection

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Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- Equal rights amendments
- Sex discrimination against women -- Law and legislation
- Abortion
- Aging
- Birth control
- Feminism
- Marriage
- Women's rights
- Education
- Issues in children's and families' lives
- Falmouth (Me.)
- Buttons (Information artifacts)
- License plates
- Stickers
- Ephemera
- Christmas cards
- Clippings
- Obituaries
- Correspondence
- Newsletters
- Dibner, Nancy
- Dibner, Nancy
- Barth, Ramona
- National Organization for Women
- League of Women Voters (U.S.)

General

Processed by:

Ann Morrissey

Date Completed:

2011

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Collection Inventory

NOW, 1966-1975

Scope and Contents

Series 1 holds 15 files from national NOW on how chapters may form themselves, what issues other states and national NOW are involved with, and a good collection of informational pamphlets on NOW issues. NOW had national conferences (files 9, 10 & 11), regional conferences (file 1), and local state chapters for which they provided precise instructions on how to organize around elected officers, programs and written materials (file 14). NOW wrote often to state chapters (file 12) and provided states with many written materials (files 5 & 13). File 5 is noteworthy because its variety of subject matter; it contains, for example, a NOW Bill of Rights, a 1966-1973 list of accomplishments in the areas of employment, religion, politics & the law, and complete pamphlets on sexism, volunteerism and on one of the major issues facing the nation in the early 1970s, the Equal Rights Amendment. Many of the subjects covered in series 1 are also reflected in series 2, 3 and 5.

Title/Description	Instances	
Eastern Regional Convention, 1973	Box 1	Folder 001
Litigation strategy for NOW, undated	Box 1	Folder 002
Legislative office update, [1974 January]	Box 1	Folder 003
Letterhead, undated	Box 1	Folder 004
Literature, 1966-1975, undated	Box 1	Folder 005
Newsletter: CCCO, 1973	Box 1	Folder 006
Newsletter: Do It NOW!, [1972], 1973-1974	Box 1	Folder 007
Newsletter: WEAL, 1972-1973	Box 1	Folder 008
National NOW Conference, 1974	Box 1	Folder 009
	Box 1	Folder 010
National NOW Conference, 1975	Box 1	Folder 011
National NOW to state chapters, 1974 April	Box 1	Folder 012
Resources available to chapters, 1972, undated	Box 1	Folder 013
Starting a NOW chapter, [1970, 1971]	Box 1	Folder 014
Women Today, Washington DC, 1972-1973	Box 1	Folder 015

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NOW Me

Scope and Contents

Series 2 holds 70 files concerning the NOW chapter organized in the state of Maine, and referred to by NOW as the "Now Me chapter." Early NOW Me conferences (files 7, 8 & 9), present a wide canvas of subjects of interest to Maine women, and file 9 particularly showcases NOW Me's connections to NOW in the use of national pamphlets and goals within the state. The files that contain the clippings and notes of interest to NOW Me (files 11-20) include topics such as the Governor's Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the ERA movement in Maine, and clippings from local papers on women's issues. In particular the ERA rallies, referendums, ERA Days and ERA Conferences dominated much of the 1972 and 1973 women's rights discussions, and files 23-36 document this subject and period. This series also contains copies of the various newsletters that sprouted up in Maine during the early 1970s. They cover social justice in general (file 50); politics (file 52); early Maine women's issues (file 53); and the later newsletters (Mainly NOW, files 54 -55), which tried to both be a content and a communications vehicle for the growing number of NOW sub-chapters in Maine. There are also interesting stand alone files--one on recruitment in the Maine State Police (file 62) and one on Maine feminist named Ramona Barth from Alma, Maine (file 4).

Title/Description	Instances	
97 Danforth Street, 1972, undated	Box 1	Folder 001
Agenda, 1978	Box 1	Folder 002
Attendance sheets notes, 1972	Box 1	Folder 003
Barth, Ramona, 1973	Box 1	Folder 004
Christmas cards, etc., undated	Box 1	Folder 005
Coalition members notes, 1973	Box 1	Folder 006
Conference: Maine Women Out From Under, 1971 November	Box 1	Folder 007
Conference, 1973 June	Box 1	Folder 008
	Box 1	Folder 009
Conference: Maine NOW, 1974	Box 1	Folder 010
Clippings/notes, undated	Box 1	Folder 011
Clippings/notes, 1971-1974	Box 1	Folder 012
Clippings/notes, 1972-1974	Box 1	Folder 013
Clippings/notes, 1972	Box 1	Folder 014
Clippings/notes, 1973	Box 1	Folder 015
	Box 1	Folder 016
	Box 1	Folder 017
Clippings/notes, 1974	Box 1	Folder 018
	Box 1	Folder 019
	Box 1	Folder 020
Clips, 1975	Box 1	Folder 021
Early plans, [circa 1973]	Box 1	Folder 022
ERA Conference, 1973, "notes to self", 1973		

	Box 1	Folder 023
ERA conference planning notes, 1973	Box 1	Folder 024
ERA clippings, 1972, 1973	Box 1	Folder 025
ERA letters, 1973	Box 1	Folder 026
ERA Maine legislature, 1973	Box 1	Folder 027
ERA NOW Conference, 1973 September	Box 1	Folder 028
ERA political correspondence, 1971	Box 1	Folder 029
ERA Day, 1972	Box 1	Folder 030
ERA Day, "Artists Crafters", 1972	Box 1	Folder 031
ERA Day, 1973	Box 1	Folder 032
ERA notes, 1974	Box 1	Folder 033
ERA statewide efforts, circa 1972	Box 1	Folder 034
ERA workshop invitation, undated	Box 1	Folder 035
Equal rights celebration, 1973 August	Box 1	Folder 036
Freewoman's Herald, 1974	Box 1	Folder 037
Greater Portland NOW, 1971-1973	Box 1	Folder 038
Greater Portland NOW, 1975 October	Box 1	Folder 039
Images, undated	Box 1	Folder 040
Information requests, 1973, undated	Box 1	Folder 041
League of Women Voters, 1973-1974	Box 1	Folder 042
Letters, 1972-1974	Box 1	Folder 043
Letters from National NOW, 1972, 1973	Box 1	Folder 044
Mailing permits, 1973	Box 1	Folder 045
Mailing lists, 1974	Box 1	Folder 046
Maine NOW, [circa 1998]	Box 1	Folder 047
Membership lists, [circa 1972]	Box 1	Folder 048
National NOW membership, 1973	Box 1	Folder 049
Newsletter: The Egalitarian, 1973	Box 1	Folder 050
Newsletter: Equal Opportunities for Women, 1974	Box 1	Folder 051
Newsletter: Maine NOW Times, 1978	Box 1	Folder 052
Newsletter: Maine Women's Newsletter, Bangor, 1972	Box 1	Folder 053
Newsletter: Mainely NOW, 1973	Box 1	Folder 054

Newsletter: Mainely NOW, 1974	Box 1	Folder 055
Newsletter: Women's Collection Newsletter, 1974	Box 1	Folder 056
Notes letters, 1973	Box 2	Folder 057
Notes letters, 1974	Box 2	Folder 058
Notes minutes, undated	Box 2	Folder 059
NOW notebook, 1974	Box 2	Folder 060
Press releases media lists, undated	Box 2	Folder 061
Recruitment: ME State Police, 1974	Box 2	Folder 062
South Portland NOW, [circa 1977]	Box 2	Folder 063
Southern Maine NOW notes, [circa 1972]	Box 2	Folder 064
Southern Maine Chapter: Summer '72 Women's Festival, 1972	Box 2	Folder 065
Southern Maine Chapter: Second Annual Conference, 1972 November	Box 2	Folder 066
Spaulding, Elizabeth (Beth), 1974-1975, undated	Box 2	Folder 067
Steering committee, 1972-1973	Box 2	Folder 068
Task force results, 1973	Box 2	Folder 069
United Women's Center, Augusta, 1974	Box 2	Folder 070

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Issues

Scope and Contents

Series 3 consists of 55 files dedicated to a wide variety of women's issues. The files are replete with white papers, articles, and clippings on many of the subjects already covered in the NOW or NOW Me series: for example, abortion, education, employment, legal issues, religion and politics. These files expand subjects such as employment into a discussion of the de-segregation of the want ads (file 16), and abortion into a history of the repeal attempts in Maine (file 2). Many of the subjects covered are new as in aging (file 4), children's issues (file 10), male vs. female identity (file 25), marriage & name choice (file 37), and women and credit (file 48). There are six files (files 29 - 34) concentrated on specific Maine issues such as the Commission on the Status of Women, Maine's Indian tribes and equal opportunities for women in Maine State Government. Some of the series 3 files are quirky in their subject matter: assertiveness training (file 6), feminist items for sale (file 20), a reading list on women and the law (file 28), a 1973 softball game to benefit the ratification of the ERA (file 42), a file on vegetarian feminists (file 44), and a file on the uproar occasioned by the firing of the female staff at the HBS house in Brunswick (file 43).

Title/Description	Instances	
Abortion clippings, 1971-1974, 1989, undated	Box 2	Folder 001
Abortion history of repeal attempts in Maine, undated	Box 2	Folder 002
Abortion literature, 1970, 1973, undated	Box 2	Folder 003

Aging issues, 1969-1974	Box 2	Folder 004
American Friends, 1972, 1974	Box 2	Folder 005
Assertiveness training, [circa 1977]	Box 2	Folder 006
Birth control literature, family planning, 1970-1974	Box 2	Folder 007
Black women's liberation, 1970-1973	Box 2	Folder 008
Book reviews, 1972-1978, undated	Box 2	Folder 009
Children's issues, 1973-1974	Box 2	Folder 010
Common cause, literature, correspondence, 1973, undated	Box 2	Folder 011
Consciousness raising in the church, 1974	Box 2	Folder 012
Education, 1973-1974	Box 2	Folder 013
Education: Emma Willard task force, undated	Box 2	Folder 014
Education: feminist resources, 1973	Box 2	Folder 015
Employment, 1971-1974, undated	Box 2	Folder 016
ERA literature, 1973, 1978, undated	Box 2	Folder 017
Farmworkers, undated	Box 2	Folder 018
Feminist education/sexism, 1971-1974, undated	Box 2	Folder 019
Feminist items for sale, 1973-1974, undated	Box 2	Folder 020
Feminist periodicals, 1973, undated	Box 2	Folder 021
Feminist press: KNOW, 1973-1976, undated	Box 2	Folder 022
Feminist/women's health, Maine, undated	Box 2	Folder 023
Free Mind: American Humanist Assoc, 1973 September-October	Box 2	Folder 024
Identity: Male vs. Female, 1974	Box 2	Folder 025
Law: ACLU cases, undated	Box 2	Folder 026
Law: legal issues, Houston 12 defense committee, undated	Box 2	Folder 027
Law: women law reading list, 1971 April	Box 2	Folder 028
Maine: arts humanities, 1973-1975	Box 2	Folder 029
Maine: Commission on the Status of Women, 1973-1975, 1983	Box 2	Folder 030
Maine: The Maine Indian, 1973 December	Box 2	Folder 031
Maine: Equal Employment Opportunity for Women in State Gov't, 1974 January	Box 2	Folder 032
Maine: Population Problems, [1970 April]	Box 2	Folder 033
Maine: State Board of Education, 1974 January	Box 2	Folder 034
Maine Women's Lobby, 1979 July		

	Box 2	Folder 035
Marriage divorce, 1970-1974, undated	Box 2	Folder 036
Marriage name choice, 1972-1973	Box 2	Folder 037
Media report to women, [1974 May]	Box 2	Folder 038
Politics women's issues, 1971-1976, undated	Box 2	Folder 039
Saturday Review, 1973 October 10	Box 2	Folder 040
Sex discrimination, U.S. employment, [1972 March]	Box 2	Folder 041
Softball game, 1973 August	Box 2	Folder 042
Stowe House, Brunswick, 1974	Box 2	Folder 043
Vegetarian feminists, 1974	Box 2	Folder 044
Violence, 1974, 1983	Box 2	Folder 045
Violence and the Masculine Mystique by Lucy Komisar, undated	Box 2	Folder 046
Women childcare, 1972, undated	Box 2	Folder 047
Women credit, 1973, 1975	Box 2	Folder 048
Women religion, 1973	Box 2	Folder 049
Women labor, 1969-1974, undated	Box 2	Folder 050
Women social security [c.1974], [circa 1974]	Box 2	Folder 051
Women's History Research Center, Berkeley, CA, [1974 July]	Box 2	Folder 052
Women's lib, 1973	Box 2	Folder 053
Women's library, undated	Box 2	Folder 054
Zero population growth, undated	Box 2	Folder 055

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Personal

Scope and Contents

This small series contains two files. The first file has two personal tax items, a Portland Symphony program, and a Children's Fairyland program. The second file has Dibner's obituary from the Portland Press Herald (2/1/2007).

Title/Description	Instances	
Misc, 1972-1974	Box 2	Folder 001
Obituary, 2007 February 1	Box 2	Folder 002

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Memorabilia

Scope and Contents

Series 5 contains bumper stickers and buttons from the early 1970s. The stickers were timely: "Support the Equal Rights Amendment", "E.R.A. for Me.!", "Equal Rights Amendment NOW", "I'm for Ed Muskie", "It was a man's world", and "Sexism Is a Social Disease." The buttons are fun, feminist and present a clear view of the 1970-1974 NOW agenda, as well as Dibner's own personal interests and causes: "Nixon eats lettuce", "Abortion upon demand", "Uppity Women Unite" and "Respect Animals Don't Eat Them."

Title/Description	Instances	
Buttons	Box 3	Folder 001
Broken buttons	Box 3	Folder 002
Name tags	Box 3	Folder 003
Celebration banner	Box 3	Folder 004
Political stickers, map of Lincoln County	Box 3	Folder 005
NOW, Maine license plate	Box 3	Folder 006

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