

Inventory of the Florence Jaffy papers

(#1997-23)

Note: This document is a preliminary inventory, not a completed finding aid. The collection is surveyed but not processed, and its organization and composition are subject to change. This inventory is intended to help researchers better understand the general scope and content of the collection.

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Florence Jaffy papers

Collection Number: 1997-23

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet (1 carton, 1 half manuscript box)

Creator: Florence Jaffy

Date (inclusive): circa 1952-1972

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Florence Jaffy was the Research Director for the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) from the early 1960s until 1970, where she worked under the alias of “Florence Conrad.” The collection consists of three series: Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) research materials, personal reference materials, and photographs.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Florence Jaffy papers (#1997-23), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

For the status of the rights to this material, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Acquisition Information:

For this material’s acquisition information, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Processing Information:

Inventory created by Isaac Fellman, based on initial processing by Barbara Blinick in 1997 (and using Blinick's text verbatim, apart from copy edits).

This inventory uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Florence Jaffy was the Research Director for the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) from the early 1960s until 1970, where she worked under the alias of Florence Conrad. She appears to have been in charge of gathering information, handling a variety of correspondence, working with groups who wanted research questionnaires submitted to DOB membership, and maintaining a file of news clippings, among other work. She also contributed book reviews to *The Ladder*, especially for non-fiction and psychology books. She was an active correspondent with a variety of prominent lesbian and gay activists, including Barbara Gittings, Barbara Grier (aka Gene Damon) and Frank Kameny. She was also quick to respond to any negative portrayal of lesbians in the media, and the files include numerous letters to editors, authors and academics critiquing their work.

Jaffy was a professor of Economics at the College of San Mateo (CSM), in San Mateo, California. The collection documents her interest in issues such as comparable worth, affirmative action, discrimination, Title IX, wage differentials, women and employment, and psychology, among other topics. Upon her death in the fall of 1986, a scholarship was started in her memory at CSM.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of three series: Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) research materials, personal reference materials, and photographs. The DOB series consists of bibliographies, correspondence, and letters between Jaffy and Barbara Gittings, Barbara Grier, and Frank Kameny. The Gittings letters from 1963 to 1971, as well as the Grier letters from 1968 to 1970, focus primarily on *The Ladder*, and are of particular interest for their insight into the inner workings of the DOB. The letters also include commentary about a variety of actions taken by the group, as well as discussions about personal relations between some members. The Kameny letters (and clippings) comment on Kameny's work, and are not personal in nature. The collection also includes a long series of letters concerning DOB's participation in a questionnaire by the Gender Identity Research Clinic at UCLA, as well as the actual questionnaire, its results, and subsequent articles written about the results. There is also a small file of news clippings, a brief history of the DOB, and a group of research papers on homosexuality. Finally, there is a survey of psychologists about their views on homosexuality, which Jaffy and DOB helped to prepare as well as disseminate.

Jaffy's personal papers are largely reflective of her professional life as an economics professor and her interest in issues relating to women and equal rights. They include a large amount of clippings and articles about comparable worth, affirmative action, the Bakke case, the Equal Rights Amendment, and international women's issues. It also includes files on the legal aspects of discrimination and affirmative action, protective laws, psychology, religion, Title IX, wage differentials, and the Women's Equity Action League. Finally, there is a series of folders relating to women and economics, employment, discrimination, and Social Security.

Indexing Terms:

Lesbians
Feminism
Homophile movement
Education

Container Listing

Box 1
DOB Research Director Files
Association for Responsible Citizenship (ARC) (Sacramento homophile group)
Bibliographies
Book notes
Albany Trust (British group)
Gender Identity Research Clinic Questionnaire and correspondence
Gittings, Barbara: correspondence
Grier, Barbara (a.k.a. Gene Damon): correspondence
History of Daughters of Bilitis
National Legal Defense Fund
Kameny, Frank: correspondence and articles
News clippings
Religion/Council on Religion and the Homosexual (CRH)
Research papers
Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS)
Survey of Psychologists about homosexuality/correspondence

Personal Reference Files
Bakke Case
Comparable Worth
Course Listings on Women and Sex Roles: U.C. Berkeley/1983
Death and Dying
Equal Rights Amendment
France

Hemlock Society
International Women's Issues
Lesbian and Gay History Projects
Pensions
Political Science/Liberalism
Protective Laws
Psychology
Religion
Title IX
Wage Differentials
Women and Economics: general information
Women and Employment
Women and Employment Discrimination
Women and Social Security
Women's Equity Action League

Photographs

Correspondence: 1952 - 1972

Correspondence concerning research: 1964 – 1970

Legal Aspects of Discrimination and Affirmative Action