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Traprock Peace Center Records

1979-2008

ca. 50 boxes (75 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 80



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A grassroots organization based in Deerfield, Massachusetts, that trains and educates people locally and globally in matters relating to disarmament and nonviolence. In 1980, the Center organized the first successful attempt in the United States to get a nuclear weapons moratorium referendum on the ballot. Records include correspondence, campaign materials (resolutions, organizing committee records, legislative packets), program reports, newsletters, newsclippings, and posters.

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Massachusetts (West)
Peace
Quakers
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Spiritual change

Background on Traprock Peace Center

A grassroots organization based in Deerfield, Mass., the Traprock Peace Center has waged a long campaign to educate the public regionally and globally about peace and non-violence. The Center was founded in 1979 after the closure of the alternative Woolman Hill School on Woolman Hill, a retreat and (since 1982) conference center run by the Society of Friends. After considering various alternatives for what to do with the buildings, the school board reached consensus on establishing a center for education and training in non-violence, an effort to be coordinated by a long-time member of the War Resisters League, Beverly Woodward.

Beginning in 1979, a core group of peace activists began to meet to form what would become Traprock, including Randy Kehler, Frances Crowe, Gordon Faison, Pauline Bassett, and later, Meg Gage. To sharpen their focus, the core group turned their attention to the nuclear arms race, which they regarded as the "ultimate manifestation of violence" and the primary threat to peace in the world. During the early part of 1980, the Reagan era about to dawn, organization against the nuclear arms race began to coalesce, and Traprock helped lead the effort to place a referendum on a nuclear weapons moratorium on the ballot. That fall, even as Ronald Reagan swept into office, the nuclear freeze passed in all four districts in Western Massachusetts. Kehler and Crowe were significant national figures in the nuclear freeze movement in the 1980s, and many others at Traprock were vital supporters.

Even with the intense focus on the freeze, activists associated with Traprock soon began to tackle a wide range of issues in peace and social justice. Among the dozens of projects the Center has taken on over the years, it has been active in promoting public awareness of issues relating to nuclear power and nuclear energy, depleted uranium, the economic sanctions against Iraq and the Iraq wars, the "Star Wars" missile defense system, American intervention in Central America, and the growth of militarism in the United States.

Scope of collection

The records of the Traprock Peace Center document the Center's efforts since its founding to train and educate people locally and globally in matters relating to disarmament and nonviolence. The records include full documentation of the Center's activities relating to the nuclear freeze referendum in 1980, including correspondence, campaign materials (resolutions, organizing committee records, legislative packets), program reports, newsletters, newsclippings, and posters.

A small portion of the overall collection is described here. The bulk of the collection was received in 2008 and these materials have not yet been processed, although they are open to research.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into five series:

- Series 1. Newsletter (1979-1985)
- Series 2. Correspondence (1979-1983)
- Series 3. Campaigns and Projects (1980-1985)
- Series 4. Conferences and Summer Programs (1979-1983)
- Series 5. Clippings and Publicity (1979-1985)

Inventory

Series 1: Newsletter

Newsletter: "The Traprock Report"
1979-1985
Box 1: 1-6
Series 2: Correspondence

Correspondence
1979-1983
Box 2: 7-12

Series 3: Campaigns and Projects

Referendum Organizing Committee records: Minutes, schedules, notes

1980 April-Nov.

Box 3: 13a

Referendum Organizing Committee records: Lists

Box 3: 13b

Referendum Organizing Committee records: Mailings and press releases

Box 3: 13c

Referendum packet originals

Box 3: 14

Referendum newsclippings

1980-1981

Box 3: 15

Post-referendum materials

1980 Nov.-1981 April

Box 3: 16

1982 Referendum

1982

Box 3: 17

Resolution

Box 4: 18

Resolution packet originals

Box 4: 19

Resolution Hearing/Testimonial

1981 March

Box 4: 20

Hawley Tower

1985

Box 4: 21

Religious Task Force records

1980-1985

Box 4: 22

YES Campaign records

1981-1983

Box 4: 23

Endorsement packet and originals

1981-1982

Box 4: 24

Legislative packetlistings

Box 4: 25

Packets--finished

Box 4: 26

Series 4: Conferences and Summer Programs

Conferences
1979-
Box 5: 27
Summer Internship Program
1981-1982
Box 5: 28
Traprock Summer
1980
Box 5: 29
International Workcamp
1983
Box 5: 30
Series 5: Clippings and Publicity

Clippings
1979-1985
Box 5: 31-33
Posters and publicity

Box 5: 34

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from: Judith Ann Scheckel, 1985. Addition received in 2008.

Accruals

Approximately fifty boxes of material was added to the initial five box collection in 2008.

Processing Information

Processed by Linda Seidman, January 1986.

Language:

English

Acknowledgments

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Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

Antinuclear movement--Massachusetts--Deerfield--History--Sources.
Deerfield (Mass.)--Social conditions--Sources.
Nonviolence--Massachusetts--Deerfield--History--Sources.
Nuclear disarmament--History--Sources.
Pacifists--Massachusetts--Deerfield--Political activity --History--Sources.
Political activists--Massachusetts--Deerfield--History--Sources.
Traprock Peace Center--Archives.

Contributors

Traprock Peace Center [main entry]

Genres and formats

Posters.

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