

## Special Collections and University Archives

UMass Amherst Libraries 

# Tom Behrendt Papers

1950-2006 (*Bulk:* 1970-2000)

3 boxes (3.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 870



[About SCUA](#)

[SCUA home](#)

[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Admin info](#)

[Download](#)

[xml version](#)

[print version \(pdf\)](#)



[Read collection overview](#)

The attorney Tom Behrendt has worked for years in the cause of civil rights for people with mental disabilities. A past president and long-time member of the Board of Directors of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy, Behrendt served previously as Legal Director of the Connecticut Legal Rights Project and he was a founding member of the Special Litigation and Appeals Unit of the Mental Hygiene Legal Service in New York. Behrendt's involvements have included work with organizations such as Project Release, the Free Association, Advocacy Unlimited, and PAIMI (Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness).

The collection consists of a wide array of publications and documents relating the psychiatric survivors movement and Behrendt's advocacy work. In addition to materials relating to NARPA conferences and a long run of NARPA's newsletter, The Rights Tenet, the collection includes newsletters and other materials relating to the movement and issues such as electroconvulsive therapy.

See similar SCUA collections:

## Disability

### Background on Tom Behrendt

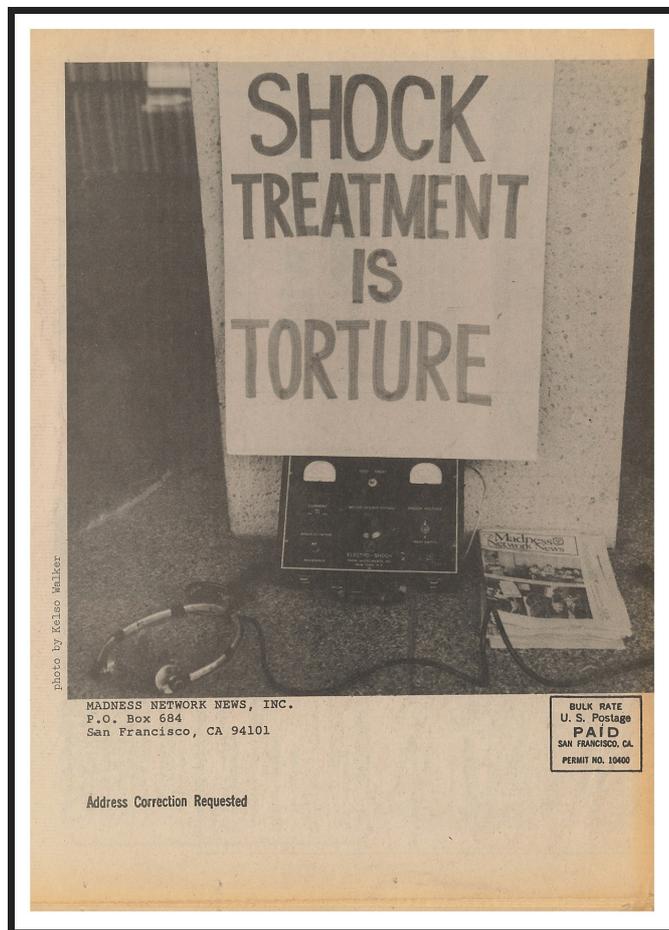
A lawyer and advocate for people with mental illness (sometimes referred to as consumers, clients, survivors, ex-patients or ex-inmates), Tom Behrendt was active in the psychiatric survivors movement starting in the 1970s, and continues to work on behalf of disability rights today. He served as President and later long-time board member of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy (NARPA), which published The Rights Tenet and holds annual conferences. He also worked with the New York State Mental Hygiene Legal Services, the Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Project Release, and other advocacy groups. He had regular correspondences with Cynthia "Kalisa" Miller, a prominent figure in the psychiatric survivors' movement, and is associated with other activists such as Marilyn Rice, Linda Andre, and Alice M. Earl.

### Scope of collection

Comprised mainly of publications, correspondence, ephemera, and to some extent legal and government documents, the Tom Behrendt Papers focus on issues relating to the psychiatric survivors movement, particularly deinstitutionalization, housing, involuntary commitment and treatment, Psychopharmaceuticals, and the controversial Electro-convulsive treatment (ECT), commonly called electro-shock or shock therapy. It also addresses the split between the more radical, anti-psychiatry faction and mainstream activists, specifically disagreements over the nature of mental illness (reaction to societal pressure versus chemical imbalance), proper treatment (the peer support and self-help movements versus the medical model and traditional psychiatry), as well as protection and advocacy laws.

Publications, including titles such as Dendron News, Madness Network News (published by Project Release), the Radical Therapist (also known as RT, the Rough Times, and State and Mind), Peer Advocate, and Phoenix Rising, make up a large portion of the collection, spanning from the 1970s to the early 2000s. The collection also contains newsletters, articles, correspondence, and ephemera from several advocacy groups. These include the Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients (ALMP); Psychiatric Survivors of Western Massachusetts, which published Peer Advocate; the National Association of Psychiatric Survivors, formerly the National Alliance of Mental Patients; Project Release, which published Madness Network News and organized demonstrations against the International Conference on Electroconvulsive Therapy; National Association of Psychiatric Survivors (NAPS), formerly the National Alliance of Mental Patients (NAMP); Committee for Truth in Psychiatry (CTIP); Support Coalition International, later MindFreedom, which published Dendron; the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); and the Mental Health Law Project. Also included are conference materials spanning several years from NARPA as well as the International Conference on Human Rights and Against Psychiatric Oppression.

The Tom Behrendt Papers also contain materials related to the Advisory Board to the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. This includes documents, correspondence, and reports from the Inter-Agency Task Force on deinstitutionalization. There are also legal resources from the New York Civil Liberties Union, government initiatives pertaining to Mental Health issues, and correspondence with the White House. In addition, Behrendt kept records of court cases, briefings, and other legal documents from his work with Project Release and the Mental Hygiene Legal Services, as well as a collection of peer-reviewed articles from the American Bar Association, the American Psychological Association, and other journals.



Backpage of Madness Network News, Spring 1978, Vol. 4: No. 6. Photo by Kelso Walker.

A notable component of the collection are transcripts from the Association for the Preservation of Anti-Psychiatric Artifacts (APAPA), which document broadcastings of the Madness Network on WBAI radio, as well as interviews with prominent figures in the Psychiatric Survivors movement, such as Judi Chamberlin, Marilyn Rice, Leonard Roy Frank, Rae Unzicker, and Howard "Howie the Harp" Geld. The collection also holds a unique compilation of poetry, short stories, and other literature about mental illness.

## Inventory

---

Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients

1977

Box 1: 1

Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients

1978, 1983

Box 3: 1

Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients: "The Politics of Phenothiazines"

ca.1980

Box 1: 2

Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients

ca.1985-1987

Box 1: 3

Amazon Autumn Annual Lesbian Fall Festival

1985, 1986

Box 1: 4

Association for the Preservation of Anti-Psychiatric Artifacts Transcripts

1977-1981

Box 1: 5

Association for the Preservation of Anti-Psychiatric Artifacts Transcripts

1984

Box 1: 6

Association for the Preservation of Anti-Psychiatric Artifacts Transcripts

1985

Box 1: 7

Association for the Preservation of Anti-Psychiatric Artifacts Transcripts

1986

Box 1: 8

Clippings

1974-1977

Box 1: 9

Clippings: *Psychiatric News*

1975, 1992

Box 1: 10

Clippings: *The Village Voice*

1976 Jul 26, 1977 Nov 28

Box 1: 11

Clippings

1985

Box 1: 12

Clippings: Womens' Issues

1985-1986

Box 1: 13

Clippings

ca.1988-1990

Box 1: 14

Clippings

1993 Jul

Box 1: 15

Clippings: *The New York Press*

1993 Aug 25

Box 3: 2

Conference on Human Rights and Psychiatric Opression

1978

Box 3: 3  
Conference on Human Rights and Psychiatric Opression  
1982, 1983

Box 1: 16  
Connecticut Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities  
1990

Box 1: 17  
Correspondence  
ca.1973-1989

Box 1: 18  
Correspondence: Miller, Cynthia "Kalisa"  
1986 Apr

Box 1: 19  
Committee for Truth in Psychiatry: Rice, Marilyn  
1986-1988

Box 1: 20  
Committee for Truth in Psychiatry: Rice, Marilyn  
1986 Jul-1990 Feb

Box 3: 4  
Committee for Truth in Psychiatry  
1989-1993

Box 1: 21  
Committee for Truth in Psychiatry: Rice, Marilyn and Andre, Linda  
1990 Mar-1992 Jul

Box 3: 5  
*Dendron*, Fact Sheets  
ca.1987-1989

Box 1: 22  
Dump Duberstein Campaign  
1997

Box 1: 23  
Dr Caligari's Psychiatric Drugs  
1992

Box 1: 24  
Engelhardt, David *Prevention of Psychiatric Hospitalization*  
1960-1964

Box 1: 25  
Federal Violence Initiative  
1992

Box 1: 26  
Federal Violence Initiative Press  
1992

Box 1: 27  
Free Association  
ca.1992

Box 1: 28  
International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology Newsletter  
1998, 2001

Box 1: 29  
Legal: *Rogers v. Okine*  
1977

Box 1: 30  
Legal: Mental Health Law  
1978-1983

Box 1: 31  
Legal: Children and Mental Illness  
1980, 1998-1999

Box 1: 32  
Legal: Insanity Defence

1982-1983  
Box 1: 33  
Legal: Bonnie, Richard J.  
1982-1983  
Box 1: 34  
Literature: "Poetics" from Madness Network  
ca.1950-1992  
Box 1: 35  
Literature: Lessing, Doris  
1969  
Box 1: 36  
Literature  
ca.1970-1990  
Box 1: 37  
Literature: "Literary Transformations"  
1975, 1979  
Box 1: 38  
Literature: *The New York Times Book Review*  
1979 May 2, Jun 27  
Box 1: 39  
Literature: *The New York Review of Books*  
1978 Feb 23  
Box 1: 40  
Literature: *Psychiatry as Social Control an Annotated Bibliography*  
ca.1985-1999  
Box 3: 6  
Main Protection and Advocacy Proposal  
1986  
Box 1: 41  
Mental Hygiene Legal Services  
1987, 1992  
Box 1: 42  
National Alliance on Mental Illness: Brochures and Leaflets  
ca.1988-1990  
Box 1: 43  
National Alliance on Mental Illness: "Propoganda"  
ca.1988-1991  
Box 1: 44  
National Alliance on Mental Illness: *U.S News and World Report*  
1989 Apr 24, 1990 Mar 5  
Box 1: 45  
National Alliance on Mental Illness: *The Decade of the Braine*  
1990  
Box 1: 46  
National Alliance on Mental Illness: Employee Discrimination  
1991 Jan  
Box 1: 47  
National Alliance on Mental Illness: Protection and Advocacy Laws  
1991 Jan-Sep  
Box 1: 48  
National Association of Psychiatric Survivors/National Alliance of Mental Patients  
ca.1980-1990  
Box 1: 49  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Mission Statement, Bylaws  
ca.1984-1987  
Box 1: 50  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1984-1985  
Box 1: 51

National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Correspondence, Newsletters  
1986, 2003  
Box 1: 52  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1987-1988  
Box 1: 53  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1989, 1991  
Box 1: 54  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1992-1993  
Box 1: 55  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1994  
Box 1: 56  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1995  
Box 1: 57  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1996  
Box 1: 58  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
1997  
Box 1: 59  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
2000  
Box 1: 60  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
2001  
Box 1: 61  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: White House Meeting  
2002 Jan  
Box 1: 62  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: White House Correspondence  
2002 Jan-Feb  
Box 1: 63  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
2002  
Box 1: 64  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
2003  
Box 1: 65  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
2005  
Box 1: 66  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy: Annual Conference  
2006  
Box 1: 67  
New York City Department of Mental Health: Interagency Task Force  
1978 Jan-Apr  
Box 1: 68  
New York City Department of Mental Health: Interagency Report  
1978 Mar-Apr  
Box 1: 69  
New York City Department of Mental Health: "Veterans' Benefits and Military Discharge Upgrading"  
1983 Jun  
Box 1: 70  
New York Civil Liberties Union: Legal  
ca.1976

Box 1: 71

New York Civil Liberties Union: Legal

1981

Box 1: 72

New York State Report: "Future of the State-Local Mental Health System"

1984 Nov

Box 1: 73

Notebook

ca.1980-2000

Box 1: 74

This notebook most likely belonged to Tom Behrendt, related to his work with NARPA, the Connecticut Legal Rights Project, or other advocacy groups.

Operation Open City

1977

Box 1: 75

Operation Open City

1977-1978

Box 3: 7

Peer Advocate

1990-1991

Box 1: 76

Peer Advocate: Earl, Alice M. Materials Packet

ca.1990

Box 1: 77

The President's Commission on Mental Health

1977

Box 1: 78

Project Release: Mission Statement, General Information

ca.1975

Box 1: 79

Project Release: New York State Department of Mental Hygiene Five Year Plan

1978 Jan

Box 1: 80

Project Release: Geld, Howard "Howie the Harp"

1978-1979, 1995

Box 1: 81

Project Release: *Project Release v. Provost*

1983

Box 1: 82

Project Release

1985 Jan

Box 3: 8

Project Release: Correspondences

1985-1987

Box 1: 83

Project Release: Ziegler, Laura Essays

1986

Box 1: 84

Publications: *Connections*

1994 Feb, Jun

Box 1: 85

Publications: *Connexions*

1984

Box 3: 9

Publications: *Counterpoint*

1996

Box 1: 86

Publications: *Cost of Freedom*

1978

Box 1: 87  
Publications: *Dendron*  
1988-1990

Box 1: 88  
Publications: *Dendron*  
1990-1992

Box 1: 89  
Publications: *Dendron*  
1992-1993, 1995

Box 1: 90  
Publications: *Dendron*  
1996-1999

Box 1: 91  
Publications: *Dendron*  
2000

Box 1: 92  
Publications: *Freedom*  
1970 Apr, May

Box 1: 93  
Publications: *In a Nutshell*  
1977-1978

Box 1: 94  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1973-1975

Box 2: 1  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1975-1976

Box 2: 2  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1976-1977

Box 2: 3  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1977-1978

Box 2: 4  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1978-1979

Box 2: 5  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1979-1980

Box 2: 6  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1982-1983

Box 2: 7  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1983

Box 2: 8  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1983-1984

Box 2: 9  
Publications: *Madness Network News*  
1985-1986

Box 2: 10  
Publications: *Majority Report*  
1975, 1976

Box 2: 11  
Publications: *Mental Health Law Project*  
1976-1978

Box 2: 12  
Publications: *Mind Freedom*

2002 Nov, 2004 Oct

Box 2: 13

Publications: *Mouth*

1991, 1997

Box 2: 14

Publications: *NAPS News*

1989-1993

Box 2: 15

Publications: *Off Center*

1992 Jan-Aug

Box 2: 16

Publications: *Off Our Backs*

1984 Jul

Box 2: 17

Publications: *Peer Advocate*

1987

Box 3: 10

Publications: *Peer Advocate*

1988 Jan-Aug

Box 3: 11

Publications: *Peer Advocate*

1988, 1989 Apr-Jun

Box 3: 12

Publications: *Peer Advocate*

1989 Aug-1990 Nov

Box 3: 13

Publications: *Phoenix Rising*

1980-1985

Box 2: 18

Publications: *Phoenix Rising*

1985-1990

Box 2: 19

Publications: *Prison Legal News*

1997 Nov-1998 Apr

Box 2: 20

Publications: *Prison Legal News*

1998 Jul-Nov

Box 2: 21

Publications: *The Radical Therapist*

1971-1972

Box 2: 22

Publications: *The Radical Therapist*

1972-1973

Box 2: 23

Publications: *The Radical Therapist*

1973-1975

Box 2: 24

Publications: *The Radical Therapist/ State and Mind*

1976-1977

Box 2: 25

Publications: *The Radical Therapist/ State and Mind*

1977-1978

Box 2: 26

Publications: *The Radical Therapist/ State and Mind*

1979-1980

Box 2: 27

Publications: *The Rights Tenet*

1984-1992

Box 2: 28

The Rights Tenet  
1984 Dec  
The Rights Tenet  
1985 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
1985 Sep-Nov  
The Rights Tenet  
1987 Jan  
The Rights Tenet  
1987 May  
The Rights Tenet  
1987 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1988  
The Rights Tenet  
1988 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
1988 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1989 Jan  
The Rights Tenet  
1989 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
1989 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1989  
The Rights Tenet  
1990 Mar  
The Rights Tenet  
1990 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1990 Sep-Nov  
The Rights Tenet  
1990 Dec-1991 Feb  
The Rights Tenet  
1991 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
1991 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1991 Sep-Nov  
The Rights Tenet  
1991 Dec-1992 May  
The Rights Tenet  
1992 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1992 Sep-Nov  
Publications: *The Rights Tenet*  
1993-1999  
Box 2: 29  
The Rights Tenet  
1992 Dec-1993 May  
The Rights Tenet  
1993 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1993 Dec-1994 Feb  
The Rights Tenet  
1995 Sep-Nov  
The Rights Tenet  
1995 Dec-1996 Feb

The Rights Tenet  
1996 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1996 Dec-1997 Feb  
The Rights Tenet  
1997 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
1997 Jun-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
1997 Sep-Nov  
The Rights Tenet  
1998 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
1998 Sep-Nov  
The Rights Tenet  
1999 Sep-Nov  
Publications: *The Rights Tenet*  
2000-2002  
Box 2: 30  
The Rights Tenet  
2000 Mar-Aug  
The Rights Tenet  
2000 Sep-2001 Feb  
The Rights Tenet  
2001 Mar-May  
The Rights Tenet  
2001 Dec-2002 May  
The Rights Tenet  
2002 Jun-Aug  
Publications: *Wisdoms Child*  
1978 Jan, May  
Box 2: 31  
Publications: Various  
1976-1978  
Box 2: 32  
Publications: Various  
1979  
Box 2: 33  
Publications: Various  
1995-1998  
Box 2: 34  
Support Coalition International  
ca.2000  
Box 2: 35  
Various Articles, Paper Materials  
1977-1992  
Box 2: 36  
World Association of Electroschock Survivors  
1996  
Box 2: 37

---

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Tom Behrendt, 2015.

### Processing Information

Processed by Anne Frances Moore, June 2018.

## Language:

English

## Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Tom Behrendt Papers (MS 870). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

Alliance for the Liberation of Mental Patients  
Alternatives to psychiatric hospitalization  
Andre, Linda, 1959-  
Antipsychiatry  
Association for the Preservation of Anti-psychiatric Artifacts  
Deinstitutionalization  
Earl, A.M. (Alice M.), 1928-  
Electroconvulsive therapy  
Ex-mental patients  
Mental health laws  
Mentally ill--Civil rights  
Miller, Cynthia  
National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
Patients--Civil rights  
People with disabilities--Civil rights  
Project Release  
Psychotropic drugs  
Support Coalition International

### Contributors

Behrendt, Tom [main entry]

### Genres and formats

Serials (publications)

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Disability



Special Collections & University Archives  
University Libraries : UMass Amherst  
154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275  
Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)

