

Guide to

MS 243

**Phoenix Women Take Back the Night and Women's Words Radio Show
Collection, Photos and Documents**

2 Linear Feet

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Library and Archives
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Historical Note

Phoenix Women Take Back the Night began in 1982 with the first march against violence against women. It was incorporated in 1984 and continued activities until 1992. The purpose of the group and original positions papers are in F-2 outlining the reason for the group (stopping violence against women) and the groups positions on wife beating, incest, rape, pornography, poverty, the law and other issues. The core contained about 5-10 women who consistently attended meetings and did the organizing. They are identified in the materials as committee chairs, persons to speak to on the press releases and in the photos and newspaper articles as spokespersons for the group. The group was run by feminist consensus.

The activities of the group included an annual march and rally, pickets at pornography stores and theatres, International Women's Day celebrations, political meetings and some very creative actions. Some of the creative actions included a hexing in Encanto Park, creating a web in front of the Phoenix Police Station on 620 W. Washington, and keening and wailing in purple sheets in front of a coffin at the State Capitol. We commonly did an action on Valentines Day handing out faux valentines with information about violence against women. We celebrated Susan B. Anthony's birthday and we once attended a wedding show at the Civic Center and placed the pink brochures "a gift for the bride to be" on every seat prior to the beginning of the event. The 1985 rally that featured women riding their bicycles from Flagstaff and Tucson to meet in Phoenix was a very empowering event. We also held a completely silent march in Tucson one year after a murder of a young girl that was very impactful.

Our two most successful actions were the posting of an ordinance valley wide that because of the violence against women by men, for the safety of women, men were prohibited from being on the street after 6 p.m. unless accompanied by two women and

our liberation of thousands of New Times newspapers. Men were so incensed about the new “ordinance” that the telephone lines were jammed to city halls across the valley the next day. The U.S. attorney became so hysterical that he promised to find the person responsible and arrest her for “impersonating a law” – a crime that does not exist. The New Times newspaper had continued to be not only sexist but refused to talk to our group so we liberated the papers one week. It just so happened that it was the week that Valley Art was advertising a pornography festival so we got a bonus. New Times sued us for taking the free papers which of course is also no crime. They then put a disclaimer in the paper that no one could take more than two papers. We did get to print our statement in their paper but it had no effect on their policies.

One result of our work was that previously the governmental actors – police, prosecutors, city officials – would not speak to the battered women shelters calling those women radical. But when we started our campaigns, we then became the radicals and the women from the battered women’s shelters became acceptable and were able to make headway with the power structures.

The group died out after 1992 as by that time many of the women who had been in their 20’s or 30’s when they started were now out of school, in career jobs or having children. Some moved away but most have continued fighting for the rights of women in some manner in whatever direction their lives took from there.

Women’s Words radio show grew out of a concern that women were not fairly represented on the available media. A group first tried to get a show on KJZZ in 1988 but were rejected. Later when a micro station opened, two of the members of the first group created a one-hour interview show on the micro station. The FCC then closed that station down.

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials from Phoenix Women Take Back the Night from 1982 to 1992 and from Women's Words Radio show from 1988 to 1995. The materials include documents, slides and tapes. There are 35 cassette tapes with 68 recorded broadcasts from Women's Words Radio Show and two cassette tapes with two recorded broadcasts from WINGS.

Container List

BOX 1

Series One – Phoenix Women Take Back the Night

Folder	1	Articles of Incorporation
Folder	2	Purpose and position papers
Folder	3	Committees and members
Folder	4	Press releases
Folder	5	Press releases
Folder	6	Press releases
Folder	7	Events
Folder	8	Events
Folder	9	Correspondence
Folder	10	Pornography papers with slide show
Folder	11	Pornography papers

Series Two – Women's Words Radio Show

Folder	12	Slides
Folder	13	The Muse papers
Folder	14	Women's Words originating documents
Folder	15	List of shows, guests and interviewers
Folder	16	Termination of show

Series Three- Arizona Lesbian and Gay Task Force

Folder	17	AZ Lesbian & Gay Task Force brochures
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BOX 2

18 audio tapes of the Women's Words radio show with 35 broadcasts

1. #1- Taped 1/22/95, aired 1/24 & 2?, Backlash
2. #3- Taped 2/5/95, aired 2/7 & 10, Clemency
3. #4- Taped 2/12/95, aired 2/14 & 17, Susan B. Anthony
4. #7- Taped 3/5/95, aired 3/7 & 11, Non-traditional empl.

5. #8- Taped 3/12/95, aired 3/14 & 17, Goddess Womyn Net.
6. #9- Taped 3/19/95, aired 3/21 & 23, Women in sports
7. #10- Taped 3/26/95, aired 3/28 & 31, Child abuse
8. #11- Taped 4/2/95, aired 4/4 & 7, Breast cancer
9. #14- Taped 4/23/95, aired 4/25 & ?, College re-entry/cin.
10. #15- Taped 4/30/95, aired 5/2 & 5, Women in film
11. #17- Taped 5/14/95, aired 5/16 & 19, Women with HIV
12. #19- Taped 5/28/95, aired 5/30 & 6/2, Women and the law
13. #22- Taped 6/15/95, aired 6/20 & 23, AnnFagan Ginger
14. #23- Taped 6/25/95, aired 6/27 & 30, Lesbian culture
15. #24- Taped 7/2/95, aired 7/4 & 7, Hispanic women
16. #26- Taped 7/95, aired 7/18 & 21, Adult Education
17. #29- Taped 8/6/95, aired 8/?/95, VOIT-Valley 1 in 10, Young lesbians
18. #31- Taped 8/20/95, aired 8/22 & 25, Suffrage 75th anniversary

Box 3

17 audio tapes of the Women's Words radio show with 33 broadcasts and two audio tapes with two broadcasts from WINGS

1. #32- Taped 8/27/95, aired 8/29 & 9/1, Mediation
2. #34- Taped 9/10/95, aired 9/12 & 15, Native American women
3. #36- Taped 9/24/95, aired 9/26 & 30, Mignon, South Africa
4. #37- Taped 10/01/95, aired 10/2 & 5, Women's different voices
5. #40- Taped 10/95, aired 10/24 & 27, China Conference
6. #42- Taped 11/5/95, aired 11/7 & 9, Political actions
7. #43- Taped 11/12/95, aired 11/? & ?, Kathleen Ferraro, DV
8. #46- Taped 12/3/95, aired 12/5 & 8, Montreal massacre
9. #48- Taped 12/17/95, aired 12/19 & 22, Sexual assault
10. #52- Taped 1/14/96, aired 1/16 & 19, Women's music II
11. #53- Taped 1/96, aired 1/23 & 26, Women and science
12. #55- Taped 2/4/96, aired 2/6 & 9, "Out" lesbian professors
13. #59- Taped 3/3/96, aired 3/5 & 8, Women's history month
14. #60- Taped 3/10/96, aired 3/12 & 15, Breast cancer
15. #63- Taped 3/31/96, aired 4/2 & 5, Feminist theory
16. #64- Taped 4/7/96, aired 4/9 & 12, Rena Haus, musician
17. #67- Taped 5/7/96, aired 5/10, Real estate financing
18. #4-00, Women's News (Jan/Feb), WINGS, year unknown
19. WINGS, May 1988 edition