



ArchivesSpace

Butcher, Joan; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Content Description	4
Arrangement of the Collection	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6

Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Joan Butcher Papers
ID:	apap410
Date [inclusive]:	1981-2019
Physical Description:	1.0 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains material related to Joan Butcher's lesbian and feminist activism and other work in New York State and the Capital Region.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Joan Butcher Papers, 1981-2019. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Butcher Papers).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Joan Butcher, born October 1943 in New York, came to her full lesbian, feminist activism after teaching for years in public and special education schools, including teaching students with learning disabilities. During a brief stint as a paralegal assistant with a New York City law firm, she began attending Westchester National Organization for Women (NOW) chapter meetings and joined a consciousness raising group. The slow progress for approval of the Federal Equal Rights Amendment; as well as multiple injustices towards women, LGBTQ and other disenfranchised communities made her decide in her late thirties to devote the rest of her work life to fighting injustice.

She moved to Albany to become the NOW-New York State office manager and chair of its lesbian rights task force as well as the office coordinator and member of the board of the Women's Building of Albany.

Other employment included public information coordinator and newsletter editor for the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, rural health project coordinator for the StateWide Senior Action Council and project coordinator of the Speakout on Teen Pregnancy.

Butcher was one of the convenors and co-chair of the New York State Lesbian Gay Lobby (a coalition of 40 state and local organizations) and chair of the New York State Human Rights Advisory Council in Albany. Butcher was honored for her work and activism, receiving the following awards: Albany NOW Making Waves, New York State Human Rights Advisory Council and Human Rights Players, and the Harvey Milk for Activism for the LGBTQ community.

Using her gift for music and belief in its power to unite hearts and open minds Butcher also was involved in creating and sharing local fame with a variety of youth, elderly, feminist and Unitarian non audition choruses.

Butcher received a BA from Wagner College, Staten Island, in 1967 and her MS from SUNY Potsdam in 1968. Although she was born, raised, educated, and worked in New York State throughout her life, the desire to leave its winter weather caused her to move to Florida in 2010.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Content Description

This collection contains subject files; news clippings; correspondence; artifacts, including buttons, magnets, and pins; audio cassettes. There are materials documenting Joan Butcher's lesbian and feminist activism and other work in New York State and the Capital Region including the National Organization for Women (NOW) New York State and Albany chapters, the Women's Building, the Capital District Lesbian and Gay Community Center, and the New York StateWide Senior Action Council.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is currently unprocessed and is not yet arranged. Individual items may be difficult to find.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Processing Information

The collection is unprocessed.

Access

Access to this collection is restricted because it is unprocessed. Portions of the collection may contain recent administrative records and/or personally identifiable information. Please contact an archivist for more information.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Joan Butcher donated all items in this collection in 2023.

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Butcher, Joan
- Women's rights -- New York (State)
- Lesbian activists -- New York (State).
- Gay rights--New York (State)
- Women
- Human Sexuality and Gender Identity