

Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History

The Women and Leadership Archives (WLA) welcomes History Day students!

Located in Piper Hall, the WLA is on Loyola University Chicago's Lake Shore Campus at 970 W. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL. The WLA is home to a variety of collections from women and women's organizations, which document women's lives, roles, and contributions.

The WLA is open by appointment only, Monday-Thursday 9am-4:30pm. We are sometimes able to offer special/weekend appointments with advance notice. To make an appointment, visit <https://tinyurl.com/WLAappointment>

Learn more about the WLA at luc.edu/wla

Areas of collecting focus

- Activism and Women's Issues
- Athletics
- Civic and Cultural Engagement
- Education
- Environment
- Mundelein College
- Public Service and Politics
- Science, Technology, and Engineering
- Social Justice
- Visual, Performing, and Fine Arts
- Women Religious



Image: Selma March, 1965, Mundelein College Photograph Collection

Resources and services

The WLA welcomes opportunities to work with students individually or as part of larger classroom instruction. **Scan the QR code to explore the History Day Resource Page on the WLA website!**

There you can access:

- Our primary sources guide
- A video tutorial featuring Loyola's mascot, Lu Wolf, on how to conduct research at the WLA
- Tips for finding a history day topic



Check out WLA collections related to this year's theme on the back!

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Homemakers' Equal Rights Association (HERA)

Illinois-based organization established in 1975 to support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in the state
The ERA is a constitutional amendment originally proposed in 1923 that would give women equal protection under the law. HERA members advocated for the ERA by writing to government officials, holding marches and rallies, and lobbying. While over 30 states, including Illinois, have ratified the amendment, the ERA has yet to be added to the Constitution.

Image: HERA members at a March, 1980, Homemakers' Equal Rights Association Papers

Margaret (Peggy) Roach

Civil rights organizer, racial justice activist, and Mundelein College graduate

Peggy Roach was active in civil rights legislation via her participation in organizations and conferences such as the National Council of Catholic Women, the National Conference on Religion and Race in Chicago, and the Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry. Roach also co-led the Coalition to Reform Payday Loans, and the collection includes materials on urban school reform.

FutureChurch

Organization founded in the 1990s that has supported reform in the Catholic Church

FutureChurch has advocated for more inclusive and just Church structures such as permitting women's ordination and allowing married men and women into priesthood. FutureChurch also consolidates resources, organizes campaigns, and hosts programming in support of queer Catholics and Catholics of color claiming space within faith traditions that have historically marginalized these experiences and identities.

Chicago Woman's Club

Organization founded in 1876 to support women and children impacted by the justice system

During a period of intense conflict among the working, middle, and upper social classes in Chicago, the Chicago Woman's Club was founded with the goal of protecting women and children in jails and engage in reform work to solve delinquency. This work included preparing them to be industrious, engage with positive role models, and for women, dress in attire that represented "proper" femininity. Despite CWC's good intentions, many women and children resisted their efforts.

Mollie West

Labor organizer, women's rights advocate, and Mundelein College graduate

Mollie West was a Jewish Polish immigrant who settled in Chicago right before the Great Depression and became interested workers' rights in her youth. As a high schooler, West joined the Young Communist League (YCL) and participated in the Little Steel Strike of 1937. The Mollie West collection demonstrates the significant role that women played in the 20th century labor movement.



Image: Mollie West at a rally, circa 1940s, Mollie West Papers

Mundelein College

Women's Catholic college founded by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVMs) in 1930

Mundelein College was the last private women's Catholic college in Illinois when it affiliated with Loyola University Chicago in 1991. In addition to Mundelein students partaking in a comprehensive Catholic liberal arts education, they were involved in creating social change on their campus, like making changes to the school dress code. Students also participated in larger social movements, including the Selma March of 1965, the Vietnam Moratorium in 1969.